Monday, August 27, 2012 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 260 P18 | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON (SPACE) INQ to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Twitter: @inq2GMA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SENDOFF RITES President Aquino watches honor guards carry the flag-draped casket of Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo during the departure ceremony at Malacañang. Robredo's remains were flown to his hometown, Naga City, on Sunday. Beside the President are the late Cabinet member's wife Leni and daughters Aika, Patricia and Jillian.

Reopen coconut levy case, Sereno urged

Farmers question SC ruling on Cojuangco shares

By Fernando del Mundo
Chief I-Team

COCONUT farmers are challenging newly appointed Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno to put her money where her mouth is for the sake of a quarter of the Philippine population mired in poverty.

Sereno issued a dissenting opinion in the Supreme Court ruling in April 2011 giving businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco a 20-percent block of the shares of stock of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) that had been sequestered for allegedly being part of the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"When the time comes that the legal impediment presented before the court today is lifted (perhaps through newly discovered

RESPECT | A12

With Sereno as CJ, Malacañang sees judiciary reforms / A12

Robredo extolled for 'tsinelas' leadership

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

WHETHER responding to disasters or planning how to succor flood victims at emergency Cabinet meetings, Jesse Robredo would always turn up looking so cool in tsinelas (rubber slippers). The image defined him, and Energy Secretary Rene Almendras, speaking at a necrological service for the late secretary of the interior in Malacañang on Saturday night, called it Robredo's "tsinelas brand of leadership."

It was the last night of the state vigil for Robredo in the Palace and members of the Cabinet gave their departed colleague a merry, song-filled tribute before his family took his body back to his hometown in

ROBREDO | A14

'He is more appreciated in death than in life' / A10

THE VICTORIOUS Smart Gilas Pilipinas squad celebrates its stunning 76-75 win Sunday over the United States to clinch the 34th Jones Cup championship.

PH downs US, wins Jones Cup

By Maureen R. Castillo

TAIPEI—JA Tenorio played hero for the second straight game as the Smart Gilas Pilipinas five rallied back the favored US squad, 76-75, on Sunday to rule the 34th Jones Cup basketball championship at the Taipei Physical Education College gym here.

The 5-foot-8 Tenorio unloaded 11 of his 20 points in the last quarter to spark a rally that powered the Filipinos to a tournament-best seventh win in eight games at the close of the tournament after trailing by 14 in the third quarter.

Tenorio, whose first Jones Cup stint came in his amateur days in 2006, was later named the tournament's MVP selected by a panel of international media coming from the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Jordan and Taipei. He was the smallest player in the tournament.

GILAS PH | A25

Demons of Luisita case hound new CJ

By Amanda Dumalla

WHEN PRESIDENT Aquino appointed Supreme Court Associate Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno as Chief Justice on Friday, he settled the issue of whether he would appoint a court insider in a deep selection that respected a tradition that the court has been led by an insider, except once, during the Japanese occupation in World War II.

ANALYSIS

The appointment of an outsider may have upheld one important tradition, but the elevation of Sereno to the soaring heights of judicial authority shattered several traditions in a disconcerting way that unsettled the time-

DEMONS | A19

US champ eats 18 'balut' in 5 minutes

NEW YORK—America has a new 'balut'-eating champion.

A customer named Wayne Gogerio claimed the title on Saturday when he gobbled up 18 of these boiled duck egg delicacy in five minutes during the first annual balut-eating contest held in Brooklyn, a borough in the city of New York.

Balut, of course, is one of the street food Filipinos are known for. The day-old duck embryo has a reputation of being an energizer sought by Filipinos who

US CHAMP! | A11

Left fielding Casiño in Senate race

By Lala B. Salaverria

ACTIVISTS are again embarking on an uphill battle to break into the elite group that makes up the Senate, with or without a formal alliance with the well-entrenched, resource-rich parties that dominate the political landscape.

This time, those who make up the newly registered Makabayan

LEFT | A19

NEWS **Neil** Armstrong, Earth's 1st moonwalker, dies; 82 / A18

NEWS **'Igme'** heading back to PH, says Pagasa / A11

WORLD **'Hundreds** of bodies' found in Syria town / A23

LEARNING **How** Ben Chan became a partner in education / F1

Second FRONTPAGE

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Con says he left with Go to do a hit

By Vilmor Viaña Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

ILAGAN CITY—The recapture of a missing convict has revealed yet another sordid activity at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) aside from kidnapping for ransom—ferrying out convicts to do hit jobs.

After he was rearrested by agents of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the provincial police yesterday in Naguilian, Isabela, murder convict Rommel Lucero had quite a tale to tell.

A maximum security prisoner who disappeared from the national penitentiary last week at almost the same time prisoner Rolito Go claimed he was kidnapped, Lucero told reporters at the provincial police headquarters here on Sunday noon that he had left the NBP compound on board the same truck that carried Go and the latter's nephew.

But while Go, who resurfaced the next day, claimed he was brought to a place in Batangas and forced to pay for his release, Lucero said he was let off in Bauhaus. He said he took a bus to Isabela the next day because he had been hired to kill a businessman in San Mariano for P300,000. Another job was to kill a businesswoman in Santiago City, he said.

Lucero did not name the person who allegedly asked him to kill the business owners.

Police said his claims had yet to be investigated.

Changing details

Senior Supt. Franklin Mateo Mabuyag, Isabela police director, has ordered investigators to review Lucero's stint based on the information he gave about his escape because "details in his testimony keep changing."

"We cannot determine if he really was with Rolito Go at that time... We have to check all the information," Mabuyag said.

Lucero, 34, is serving a life sentence for the 2006 murder of Concepcion Lumagui, assistant parole and probation officer in the province.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, who has personally taken over the reigns of the NBP after BuCor Chief Gaudencio Pangilinan went on leave after the Go incident, have formally announced Lucero's capture. "Documentation at the PNP-Magallian police station is ongoing," she said.

Rice delivery truck

She also disclosed that a closed circuit security video showed a rice hull delivery truck, which might have been used to carry Lucero, leaving the NBP's Gate 4 at 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 15.

De Lima said the video showed that the truck was "haphazardly inspected" when it exited the NBP compound.

She has since issued memos to 30 custodial officers and personnel asking them to explain why administrative sanctions should not be imposed on them following the disappearance of Lucero.

Lucero had told reporters the truck he boarded had covered passengers whom he described as "Chinese-speaking." He identified another passenger only as "Sir. Miguel."

Lucero said he never spoke to the passengers.

Hitched with Chinese

"Simula sa [illegible] Chinese [illegible] ako. Pinagsapit [illegible] sinagpang [illegible] o sumi [illegible] sabihang [illegible] ako. If just hitched a ride with the Chinese. They dropped me off at Bauhaus. I walked from Bauhaus to Santolan because I had no money. I have only a Cubao Liner bus bound for Isabela," Lucero said.

Mabuyag said Lucero's relatives first saw him in Barangay Pulotan in San Mariano on the night of Aug. 15. Lucero is from Barangay Santa Filomena, a nearby village.

He was captured in a storehouse allegedly owned by one Arlyn Sap in Barangay Rizal, Naguilian town, De Lima disclosed.

Change of heart

On his hit job, Lucero's story was that he had a change of heart and was about to warn the targets about the plot when he was arrested by police.

Last week, De Lima admitted there could have been a "semblance of truth" to Go's claim that he was abducted by four men from inside the NBP compound.

Go, who is sickly and scheduled for serious tests next year, was reportedly asked for P180 million but was released after paying only P40,000. Go's relatives had raised the alarm about the kidnapping on Aug. 14.

De Lima said she had since discovered that some wives of well-off prisoners had also been threatened and made to cough up money after visiting their husbands at the NBP. The ring operation is referred to as "balikbay," a combination of bali (correct) and balikbay. With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

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Binay off to Tehran

VICE President Jejomar Binay leaves tomorrow for Tehran to represent President Benigno Aquino at the 16th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and General Assembly President Nasir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser are expected to be in the summit to be attended by representatives of all 120 NAM member-states as well as 20 accredited observer countries and organizations.

Binay's office, in a statement, said he was expected to attend the official lunch on Thursday to be hosted by Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadi Nejad for summit delegates.

The six-day summit — on the theme Lasting Peace through Joint Global Governance — was formally opened yesterday. The gathering of heads of state or government and heads of delegation will also be held on Thursday.

According to its website, NAM is focused on striving for the interests of developing countries all over the world, and represents nearly two-thirds of UN member countries and comprises 55 percent of the world population.

Jerome Aning

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HONDA

Fewer Pinoys listing up to vote–Comelec

At 11:59 on the registration for the 2013 elections of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) is going, the Commission on Elections said it might not be able to meet its target one million overseas absentee voters by October.

Comelec Commissioner Lucenito Tagle, chair of the committee on overseas absentee voting (OAV), said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reported that only 213,889 (20%) had signed up in addition to the 389,830 absentee voters who had registered for the 2010 presidential election.

The OAV registration for next year's polls began in November last year. It will end on Dec. 31.

"At this time, our conservative estimate is that we may reach only some 850,000 registered voters, or less than one million," said Tagle.

The commissioner said the election body believed the OAV could attract more OFWs if the process were made easier for them such as by allowing them to vote via the Internet, which could only be made possible through legislation.

"We have been lobbying for an Internet voting law but until now there is none," said Tagle.

In the absence of such a law, the official said the poll body was working to expand the use of the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines to other foreign service posts aside from Singapore and Hong Kong. —Jocelyn R. Uy

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Solon questions cost of AFP gear

A LAWMAKER has questioned the military's purchase of equipment—such as radios and global positioning system devices—saying their prices appeared to be high compared to other devices in the market.

Sigun Maria party-list Rep. Mercedes Alvarez said he would seek a congressional inquiry if he was not satisfied with the explanation of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) officials.

"If the documents they submit will not be in order, I will file a resolution to investigate," Cebu-based Alvarez said Sunday.

Lawmakers had asked defense officials to submit documents pertaining to the purchase of the equipment. This came after Cebu-based questioned the prices during the House hearing on the Department of National Defense budget last week.

AFP officials, for their part, told the lawmaker the equipment had security features and specifications fit only for the military, hence their higher cost.

During the hearing, Cebu-based pointed out the AFP procured 6,250 Pro seven SSB handheld radios for P1.640 billion, pegging each unit at P258,835.

Cebu-based said his staff canvassed VHF radios in commercial markets and found one for only P32,995.

Aside from the handheld radios, Cebu-based also questioned the planned purchase of 300 base radios for P1.4 billion each and the procurement of 3,934 global positioning units worth P33,907 each.

Lolibeth Aubanovan

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HONDA

Ramon Magsaysay awardees arrive for rites

By Jovanie Aning

FIVE distinguished Asians who won this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards arrived in Manila yesterday ahead of the awarding ceremonies on Friday at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Bollywood Francis of India and Yoshi Sawada of Bangladesh, who arrived with their spouses, arrived on board Singapore Airlines flight SQ-915 at NAIA 1 Terminal 3 at around 1:30 p.m.

Francis is being recognized for "his visionary zeal, his profound faith in community energies, and his sustained programs in pursuing the holistic economic empowerment of thousands of women and their families in rural India."

"People are powerful and they can be important resources in creating change," Francis told Ramon Magsaysay Foundation officials and reporters who welcomed him.

For her part, Hasan seemed to be still grappling with the surprise of getting the award. "I know about the award but I didn't expect to receive it," she said.

Judicial activism

She is being cited for "her unconventional courage and unprecedented leadership in a campaign of judicial activism in Bangladesh that affirms the people's right to a good environment as nothing less than their right to dignity and life."

The Taiwanese awardee, Chen Shui-jin, arrived on board China Airlines flight CI-793 from Taipei at around 3:30 p.m. She was accompanied by three officials from the Taiwan's foreign ministry and the Taitung County government.

Chen is being recognized for "the pure altruism of her personal giving, which reflects a deep, consistent, quiet compassion, and has transformed the lives of the numerous Taiwanese she has helped."

Dr. Tony Kuing Kuna from Cambodia and Andreanto Rowindjaroo from Indonesia arrived on Tuesday night (SQ-916) at around 6 p.m. Rowinwa accompanied by Thatchak, program coordinator of the Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture. Rowindjaroo's wife and 5-year-old daughter were with him.

Kuna is being recognized for "his creative fusion of practical science and collective will that has inspired and enabled vast numbers of farmers in Cambodia to become more empowered and productive contributors to their country's economic growth."

Rowindjaroo will be cited for "his untainted advocacy for community-based coastal resource management in Indonesia, leading bold campaigns to stop illegal forest exploitation, as well as fresh social enterprise initiatives that engage the forest communities as their full partners."

Filipino awardee

The sixth awardee is a Filipino, Reynaldo Dariale, plant pathologist, biotechnologist and retired professor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Agriculture.

Dariale is being honored for "his steadfast passion in placing the power and discipline of science in the hands of farmers in the Philippines, who have consequently multiplied their yields, created productive farming communities, and rediscovered the dignity of farm labor."

The awardees are scheduled to speak in several lectures and be guests at various events in days before and after the awarding ceremonies.

The winners will receive a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of President Ramon Magsaysay, who died in a plane crash, and a cash prize.

Since 1958, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation has been giving recognition to outstanding individuals for their selfless service in uplifting the lives of millions in Asia.

Correction

BRADY CASTRENCE

IN THE AUGUST 26 ISSUE, the wrong photo (right) was used to accompany a Page A2 story..."UPDs finally before after strokes." The woman in that photo is former Philippine Ambassador to Korea Sharon Castrence—not Sonia Brady (left), who is the country's ambassador to China.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, 3rd Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague Street, Makati City, fax line 897-47-82/90, e-mail address: ask@inquirer.com.ph.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday - August 27, 2012
21st Week in Ordinary Time
Monday

1st Reading: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians which is in God our Father and in Christ Jesus, the Lord.

May grace and peace be yours from God the Father and Christ Jesus, the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, we should give thanks to God at all times for you, it is fitting to do so, for your faith is growing and your love for one another increasing. We take pride in you among the churches of God because of your endurance and your faith in the midst of persecution and sufferings. In this the just judgment of God may be seen, for you must show yourselves worthy of the Kingdom of God for which you are now suffering.

This is why we constantly pray for you, may our God make you worthy of his calling. May he, by his power, fulfill your good purposes and your work prompted by faith. In that way the name of Jesus our Lord will be glorified through you, and you through him, according to the loving plan of God and of Christ Jesus the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 23:13-22

Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door to the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor do you allow others to do so.

"Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel by sea and land to win a single convert, and once he is converted, you turn him twice as fit for hell as yourselves.

"Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'It means nothing to swear by the Temple, but to swear by the treasure of the Temple is binding.' Blind fools! Which is of more worth? The gold in the Temple or the Temple which makes the gold a sacred treasure? You say, 'To swear by the altar is not binding, but to swear by the offering on the altar is.' How blind you are! Which is of more value: The offering on the altar or the altar which makes the offering sacred? Whoever swears by the altar is swearing by the altar and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the Temple is swearing by it and by God who dwells in the Temple. Whoever swears by heaven is swearing by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it."

Reflection:

The Pharisees interpreted the law so strictly that no one could observe it; not even they themselves. They were certainly no hope of observing it, they felt. It was considered immoral to celebrate living, so they withdrew into word of Pharisees' means 'separated' and they would come to despise others who were still immersed in worldly affairs. They were constantly concerned to their association with tax collectors and sinners. They were concerned by and for the laws rather than and for God. Their interpretations were so to the point of absurdity. We should be thankful to them! They example. And perhaps a result that religious people are heavier in danger of falling into. They remind us that it is quite possible (and easy) to be heavy-eyed in religion without being interested in God.

Dutchman treats poor Pinoys to free English lessons

By Tina G. Santos

DUTCH national Peter Buijs' desire to help others led him down a different path in the field of education.

Early this year, Buijs established Phil Dutch Scholarship Inc., a non-governmental organization which aims to help poor students attend English language training courses and hopefully land jobs in call centers.

The NGO shoulders the expenses for a two-week training program at the Americano English Skills Development Center Inc. (AE), an English language training center in Makati City established in 2006 by Buijs' wife, Mylene.

More involved

"Initially, I was just sponsoring the school, but the more I get involved, the more I was liking it," Buijs said.

Buijs, a nurse by profession, said he had no regrets leaving behind the peaceful design business he had established in the Netherlands 12 years ago.

"Making business and money wasn't my priority. Helping people and giving them a better future is no better," he said.

Communication skills training

According to Mylene Buijs, the NGO and AE work hand in hand to provide communication skills training to those who want to join the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, including the call center industry.

They also work with the Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP), an organization of call center businesses in the country.

The local BPO industry is hiring 90,000 to 100,000 people every year, said Jojo Ulligan, executive director and corporate secretary of CCAP.

"We're trying to make people more bizwise for that industry. There are a lot of unemployed but there are also a lot of jobs available for them. The problem is that many of them lack the communication skills," Mylene said.

These days, even college-degree holders are finding it hard to land a job because of that problem, she said.

"They may have the skills for the position, and they may really be good. But they need homework, because you get the job when you cannot handle yourself during interviews? So you to be able to get the job that you want, you have to be able to present yourself [well]. But often, applicants screw up once they start talking during client interviews," Mylene said.

Oral and written

She said foundation scholars are taught programs that cover both oral and written communication.

"Those programs deal with aspects of the English language that are most troublesome for Filipinos," she said, adding that AE instructors are American and Filipino Americans, who are familiar with the nuances of "Filipino English."

"We recognize that English fluency provides Filipinos with better opportunities. This is why we work on improving our students' abilities to think in English and to speak like a native English speaker with correct grammar, pronunciation and intonation," she said.

However, Peter Buijs said that even though a scholar need not spend a single centavo for the training itself, some of their students still can't attend classes due to poverty.

DUTCH national Peter Buijs (center) is flanked by, from left, Mylene Buijs, AE president; Jojo Ulligan, CCAP executive director and corporate secretary; Cindy Sarmiento and Peter Buijs of AE.

Training and fare subsidy

"That's why we created the foundation. It's for those who don't have the means to pay for the training or fare. We're now working on subsidizing the transportation and even the meals of those who really need it. Because for some of them, merely going to the school is a problem," he said, adding that most of their scholars are based at job fairs.

Upon completion of the training, the scholars are referred to call centers and other BPO companies.

"We support them from the start of the training until they get hired. We have call center people coming here to interview them," he added, saying that many of their students have been employed by multinational corporations.

Passion for helping

Buijs said his passion for helping the unemployed was ignited when he met a girl named Sharmin Yuson at a job fair in Makati City in 2009.

"She was desperate to get a job. She offered free training as AE but she said she had no money to pay for the transportation fare to go to the center. In fact she had walked from her house in Sta. Ana, Manila, to get to Glorietta mall where the job fair was being held," Buijs recalled.

"I gave her money so she could attend the training. It paid off because she was good and she was immediately hired by a call center company," he said, adding that it was Yuson who inspired him to push through with his advocacy.

In an interview, the 23-year-old Yuson, who now works for another call center, said she couldn't thank the Buijs couple enough for helping her.

She recalled her first encounter with Buijs, particularly when he told her to open her jacket and he placed all the money he had in his pocket on them.

No excuse to quit

"He gave me around P600 to P700, money I owe and basic bills. He told me I no longer had any excuse not to attend the training since it was free and I already had the fare," she said.

"It really made me cry, first out of pity for myself, but also out of happiness that a stranger was helping and trusting me, pushing me to have a better life," she said.

She said that at the time she was quite apprehensive about undergoing the training because she wasn't sure if she wanted to work in a call center.

"I'm not comfortable talking to people, plus I have to use the English language. But at the time I really needed a job," Yuson said.

"Now I'm glad I did because it really helped me a lot. More than the things I learned during our classes, my training boosted my self-confidence," she said.

Small positive changes

Buijs said he decided to stay in the Philippines because it gave him a chance to help and "make small, positive changes for others in need," besides being with his wife and children.

"Although life in the Philippines can be very frustrating for me sometimes, it don't have any regrets. I hope to use my experience in business and set up a center or an NGO [that will help many more people have a better future than they have right now. I think education is the key for getting there," he stressed.

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Lifeguards not certified, PCG admits

PRETTIEST: Foreign travel publications like Travel + Leisure Magazine have affirmed the Philippines as being one of the best beach destinations in the world.

But for the lifeguards protecting these beaches, it is another story.

More than two years after Republic Act No. 9993—or the Philippine Coast Guard Act of 2009—was signed into law, not a single lifeguard in the country has been issued their PCG certification as required by the law.

When contacted, Lt. Cmdr. Armand Balilo, PCG spokesperson, said they were aware that RA 9993 "mandates the Coast Guard to regulate safety in beaches nationwide," through the issuance of lifeguard certificates, among other functions.

However, the PCG, a Department of Transportation and Communications-attached agency, is "still finalizing the guidelines governing the issuance of lifeguard certificates."

Vice Adm. Edmund Tiu, the PCG commandant, "has instructed concerned agency personnel to finalize the regulations as soon as possible. Once finalized, the Coast Guard will start issuing lifeguard certificates."

Under RA 9993, the PCG is tasked with setting "the national policy guidelines and requirements for coastal and beach resorts, including vessels with pool facilities, to the provisions of security, water safety, lifesaving and life-guarding of the beach-going public."

"A PCG lifeguard certificate, which is renewable every two years, will be issued to qualified lifeguards," according to the PCG law, which also requires all beach resorts to "provide the services of a sufficient number of lifeguards duly trained by the PRC (Philippine Red Cross) or other PCG-accredited organizations and certified by the PCG."

Resort operators who fail to hire lifeguards face penalties ranging from P1,000 to P5,000 or jail terms up to 45 days, or both.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in February 2010 signed into law RA 9993, which also gives the Coast Guard increased law enforcement powers, including the authority to detain and prevent from sailing substandard passenger and cargo vessels plying Philippine waters. —Jerry E. Esplanada

Tourists warned on 'extensions'

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. has warned foreign visitors against "fixers" who false that the agency's arrival and departure slip extension stamps after one day. reporting Chinese women with false immigration stamps on their passports were arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"The unscrupulous are offering immigration stamps not only visitation foreigners of their money it deprives our government of much needed revenues," said David in a statement.

He advised foreign tourists to do business directly with Bureau of Immigration employees and not with strangers who promise to process their immigration papers faster and cheaper.

Investigation showed that one of the two Chinese visitors, identified as Liu Xiumei, was approached by a woman "fixer" when she went to the bureau's main office in Intramuros, Manila, on Aug. 8.

"The stranger offered to process Liu's visa extension and asked for P70,000 in payment for the fees and her services," according to BI spokesperson Atty. Antonette Mangrobang.

The stamps turned out to be spurious when immigration officials at the airport examined her passport upon her departure on Aug. 12.

Shao Hong, who stayed in Boracay, said she was victimized by a fellow Chinese, who offered to process her visa extension in Manila.

Shao, who said her passport was handed to her at the airport, said she did not pay the Chinese fixer who had agreed on payment only after her departure. Jocelyn R. Uy

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23rd POLA Conference 2012
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PRESIDENTS OF LAW ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA

"The Legal Profession and the Renewed Challenges of Globalization"

Greetings

From the President

My warmest greetings to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, as you host the 23rd Conference of the Presidents of Law Associations in Asia.

Our shared ideal of justice is the foundation of order in society. It is indispensable to equitable progress, as the ethics and consistency of actions redound to the trust and confidence among our communities. Your duty to uphold the highest ideals of integrity and fairness serves as the touchstone for our legal systems. May this occasion enable you, as the leaders of your respective organizations, to further the exercise of law in our region.

May your interaction in this event help ensure and promote the professional independence of our Bar associations. May this conference be a force for parity and fairness, and may your advocacies bring vitality to judiciary systems throughout the Asia-Pacific.

From the Vice-President

Congratulations to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines on holding the 23rd Conference of the Presidents of Law Association in Asia (POLA) themed "The Legal Profession and the Renewed Challenges of Globalization"!

It is certainly an honor to be hosting a significant event for the legal profession. Knowing that the POLA is a distinguished organization that has the most noble of goals when it comes to molding law practice from a regional perspective.

The conference is an opportunity to hear success stories in other countries, to prepare for the challenges that may be faced with regard to globalization, and to remind ourselves that the practice comes with an ethical responsibility.

I pray that the conference leaves its attendees inspired to continue to develop the legal profession in the Asia-Pacific region to its fullest potential and to aim to provide topnotch services in the industries they practice in.

May you all meet success with this event! Mabuhay kayo!

Welcome Message

The IBP takes pride in hosting the ***23rd POLA Conference in Manila*** *with the apt theme,* ***"The Legal Profession and the Renewed Challenges of Globalization."***

POLA is an international body that pulls together the heads of the premier national Bar organizations in Asia-Pacific countries for an annual high-level conference. It also brings to the fold the presidents of the four leading Bar federations in the world – LAWASIA, International Bar Association (IBA), Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA), and Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA).

Founded in 1980, POLA is committed to promoting greater understanding of the responsibilities of the legal profession, the rule of law and human rights, and mutual assistance among Bar organizations in the region.

For this year, the Conference seeks to tackle the cutting-edge challenges of the Bar as an advancing borderless world. It takes on the still fresh task of re-examining globalization, a maturing phenomenon in this digital era, and its impact on the responsibilities of the Bar in this region.

For three days, the leaders of the Bar in Asia-Pacific will grapple with the challenges in the following four key areas – (1) combating international trafficking and cross-border crimes, (2) pioneering bars stand ards for overseas workers in global employment markets, (3) strengthening corporate social responsibility amid global market expansions and upheavals, and (4) responding to cross-border legal practice and services.

But not everything is serious business. On the sidelines, the IBP yearns to treat our foreign and local participants to an array of lively cultural presentations and fellowship dinners, all designed to unravel the heart and soul of our pop national singer – It's more fun in the Philippines.

As proud host of the event, the IBP expresses its warmest greetings to all foreign and local participants and profuse thanks to our generous sponsors and friends. May this year's ***POLA Conference in Manila*** *foster greater understanding of the challenges of the Bar in an increasingly shrinking global village.*

IBP HOSTS INT'L BAR PRESIDENTS CONFAB

VP Binay, CJ Sereno lead welcome

Vice President Jejomar C. Binay and new Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno will welcome presidents of the premier bar organizations in Asia who will gather in Manila for the 23rd Conference of the Presidents of Law Associations in Asia (POLA).

The conference will be held August 27 to 29 at the Marriott Hotel in Pasay City. The Integrated Bar of the Philippines is host of this year's conference.

Binay will keynote the opening ceremonies on Tuesday, August 28, while Sereno will give a luncheon talk on August 29.

TOP AGENDA

- *Combating Int'l Trafficking and Cross-Border Crimes*
- *Promoting Labor Standards for Overseas Workers*
- *Strengthening Corporate Social Responsibility*
- *Responding to Cross-Border Legal Practice*

Aside from the heads of bar associations of POLA member countries, the presidents of four leading international bar federations are also joining the international conference – the International Bar Association (IBA), Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA), LAWASIA and Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA).

Programme Highlights

Day 1, Monday, Aug. 27, 2012

9:00am Welcome Cocktails
Guest Speaker:
Hon. Paquito N. Ochoa Jr.
Executive Secretary, Office of the President

Day 2, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012

9:00am **Opening Ceremonies**
Welcome Address:
Roan I. Libarios
IBP National President

Keynote Address:
Hon. Jejomar C. Binay
Vice President, Republic of the Philippines

10:15am **Session I**
Topic: "Combating Human Trafficking, Drugs and Cross-Border Crimes"

Moderator:
Noemi Sto.
President, LAWASIA

Panelists:
Jose Vicente B. Salazar
Past President, IBP
Undersecretary, Department of Justice
Noemi Sotto
President Elect, LAWASIA
Christopher Lockey
Vice President, Bar Council of Malaysia
Catherine Gale
President, Law Council of Australia
Prashant Kumar
Honorary Secretary
Bar Association of India

12:45pm Luncheon Talk
"Investment 101 in the Philippines"
JV Emerson "Jove" De Dios
CEO, 2GO Philippines
Former Undersecretary, Dept. of Energy

1:15pm **Session II**
Topic: "Promoting Labor Standards in Globalized Employment Markets"

Moderator:
Rolando V. Medalla Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Legal Aid
Integrated Bar of the Philippines

Panelists:
Patricia Rosalind Salvador-Casey
Associate Dean, University of the Philippines
Elaine Yip
President, Law Society of Hong Kong
Kenji Yamaguchi
President, Japan Federation of Bar Associations
Ajesh Gowri
President, Law Society of New South Wales
Lee Chan Woo
President, The Bar Council of Malaysia

3:00pm **Session II**
Topic: "Responding to Cross-Border Legal Practice and Services"

Moderator:
Jalina Kasamuni
President, International Bar Association

Panelists:
David Lee
President, Taipei Bar Association
Catherine Gale
President, Law Council of Australia
Young Moo Shin
President, Korean Bar Association
Alison Hook
International Bar Association
Kamlesh Vaboli
Chair, Foreign Relations, IBA
Tony Rodrigo
Deputy Secretary General, IBPAS
Tahsin Anwar
General Secretary, Bar Association of India

7:30pm **Gabriel Night**
(SOFITEL Alas Pasay City)
Hosted By:
Hon. Antonio D. Carlos
Mayor, Pasay City

Day 3, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012

8:30am **Presidents' Meeting**

10:15am **Session III**
Topic: "Rule of Lawyers in Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility"

Moderator:
Jonathan Temar
President, New Zealand Law Society

Panelists:
Ebrahim M. Dalmeyer
Member, IBP
National Capital Region Governor
Lui W Ming, SC
Vice President, The Law Society of Singapore
Dali Sun
Vice President, International
Human Rights Committee
Julian C. Eggerickx
President, Int'l Council of Jurists

12:00pm **Luncheon Talk**
"The Philippine Judiciary"
Hon. Maria Lourdes P.A. Sereno
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines

1:30pm **Press Conference**

2:30pm **Tour to National Museum, Fort Santiago and Lights and Sound Museum**
Hosted By:
Department of Tourism

7:30pm **Fellowship Night / Closing Program**
(Manila Hotel, Manila)
Hosted By:
Hon. Alfredo S. Lim
Mayor, City of Manila

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Lao Bar Assn (Laos)
Bar Council of Malaysia
Assn of Mongolian Advocates
Burma Lawyers' Council
Nepal Bar Assn
New Zealand Law Society
Pakistan Bar Council
Integrated Bar of the Philippines
Law Society of Singapore
Bar Assn of Sri Lanka
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'Igme' heading back, says Pagasa

By Jeannette I. Andrade

WHILE Typhoon "Isidore" (International name: Bolaven) ruled the country yesterday and moved towards southern Japan, Typhoon "Igme" (Omais) appears to be heading back to the Philippines anytime between tomorrow and Tuesday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) warned of possible flashfloods and landslides in northern Luzon as "Isidore" and "Igme," although outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), are expected to enhance the habagat (southwest monsoon) and bring occasional to frequent rains over northern and Central Luzon.

The rest of Luzon, including Metro Manila, will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

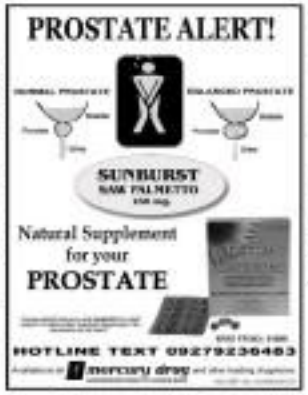
Pagasa said that as of 1 p.m. yesterday Igme was almost stationary at 600 kilometers northeast of Laoag City although still outside the PAR.

But by 4 p.m., it had moved south southeast at 7 kilometers per hour and was at 590 km east of Basco, Batanes, with maximum sustained winds of 140 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 170 kph.

Weather forecaster Jun-Jun Galvez said the Japanese that Igme was hardly moving because of its continuing interaction with Isidore.

"Typhoon Isidore is preventing its movement," Galvez explained, noting that while Igme was almost stationary it was apparently gaining in intensity.

Isidore left the PAR at 8 a.m. yesterday and was last estimated to be at 850 km southeast of Basco, moving northwest at 15 kph toward Japan. Isidore packed maximum sustained winds of 175 kph near the center with gustiness of 210 kph.



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It should be further stressed that the ACR I-Card is indispensable to every foreigner who was issued an immigrant or non-immigrant visa by the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

Any foreigner without his or her ACR I-Card shall be deemed incompletely documented, and penalized for violation of the Alien Registration Act of 1950 and Philippine Immigration Act of 1940.

Foreigners who have not secured their ACR I-Card from the BI are thus advised to claim them now at the window of the Executive Office, Ground Floor, BI Main Bldg., Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila.

The I-Cards shall be claimed within the next 90 days from the publication of this notice. Failure to claim shall result in the cancellation of the ACR I-Card without prejudice to reapplication for a new I-Card.

The list of the names of foreigners with unclaimed I-Cards can be accessed from the BI website at www.immigration.gov.ph.

RICARDO A. DAVID, JR.
Commissioner

With Sereno as CJ, Malacañang sees judiciary reforms

By Michael Lim Ubac

BOTTOMLINE: Lourdes Sereno at the helm of the Supreme Court, Malacañang expects the Aquino administration's "strategic push" to lead straight to the judiciary.

The first female Chief Justice of the Philippines wasted no time, formally being handed over the reins of the judicial branch under the administration of President Aquino and three succeeding Chief Executives over the next 18 years, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said.

"Having been appointed to the helm of the Supreme Court and to head it for 18 years, we are confident that Sereno has the moral impetus to institutionalize reforms," Lacierda said in a phone interview with the Inquirer yesterday.

"Her experience as an associate justice and her intellectual capacity to appreciate the systemic ills of the judiciary will ensure the proper identification of the ills needed to be addressed during her long period of stewardship; will produce take-root and take hold in the judiciary," he said.

Malacañang also sought to allay fears that the new Chief Justice would be a puppet of Mr. Aquino.

"Perhaps, if we will make such a resolution, we should base this on the decisions that Chief Justice Sereno had written since she sat and became a member of the Supreme Court," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said on statements from Mr. Aquino. "And we can see she has displayed her independence."

Opportunity for reforms

Valte reiterated the Palace position that the long terms of justices would usher well for the judiciary, bent by inefficient and administrative problems such as clogged dockets and corrupt judges.

"The long period will give her the opportunity to put reforms in place in sort, to correct those infirmities, and to make sure that the reforms are institutionalized in the 10 years that she will have on the court," Valte said.

She dismissed a report published by another broadsheet on the results of the controversial psychological tests conducted by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) on Sereno and other nominees to the position of ousted Chief Justice Renato Corona.

"Again, the answers are not verified, [so it is an] uninformed report. But again, since the JBC included her in the short list [of nominees given to the President], now that she is Chief Justice ... we just don't want to comment anymore. I did read that report. It's unconfirmed. That's not an official statement ... or not an official release from the JBC—so we will not comment anymore."

Oath-taking

Sereno took her oath before the President in Malacañang on Saturday.

Senior justices of the Supreme Court were not present. Only Associate Justices Martin Villarama Jr., Estela Perlas Bernabe, Marianne del Castillo and Bienvenido Reyes came, besides law faculty members and Cabinet officials.

Apart from appointing Sereno as the country's First Female Chief Justice, Mr. Aquino broke tradition by picking the head of the judiciary not from among the five most senior justices of the Supreme Court—Corona broke CJ Reynato S. Puno's streak in 2010.

The five top senior justices are Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Arturo Brion and Diosdado Peralta. Carpio declined his nomination for Chief Justice.

Reopen coconut levy case, Sereno urged

From page B1

evidence or another justifiable reason), the opportunity to revisit the ruling of the court may present itself, and Philippine history may have a chance to be reformed in part," wrote Sereno, who was an associate justice then.

A loose coalition of about a dozen militant farmers' groups believes that that time has come, with the appointment by President Aquino of the 322-year-old Sereno on Friday to replace the much-reviled Renato Corona, to pursue reforms in the judiciary.

The coalition plans to file on Wednesday a motion for the reopening of the case against Cojuangco, Mr. Aquino's uncle, banking on Sereno's promise that she will pursue good governance exemplified by the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

Ike Ramorela, national coordinator of the farmers' group Pakatarungan, expressed hopes that with Sereno's appointment, justice would be served, stressing that the 3.5 million coconut farmers and their families comprise the nation's "poorest of the poor."

"We are prepared to meet the challenges that Chief Justice Sereno raised, and where we do, we will hold her to her word. Let this be the first test of her independence—to undo the wrong that the court itself had occasioned and contemplated," Ramorela said.

Marco Sanlillo II, a volunteer lawyer for the coalition, believes all is not lost although the Corona court threw out three motions for reconsideration and ruled that they are barred until Aug. 31, making its decision final and executory.

"That judgment favoring Cojuangco offends the constitutional requirement that decisions must state the law on which they are based and because it denies the republic and the country's coconut farmers due process, it is void," Sanlillo said in an interview yesterday. "As such, it will never become final and neither can it be a source of rights."

Cojuangco's block of SMC shares was part of the 51 percent

CHIEF Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno is congratulated by retired Chief Justice Antonio Pangalinan.

shares of the shares in one of the country's largest conglomerates acquired when the businessman was head of state-owned United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) in 1983. Originally worth P2 billion, the value of the shares has ballooned to around P200 billion.

Juke of the century

The deal was arranged by Cojuangco's top-notch lawyers in Ayala, some of whom would later be elected senators. Activists have described the then-very-low selling price—less than a "cracker" and the biggest "scam" ever to be foisted on the nation.

In its ruling last year, the Supreme Court said that the 20.6 percent block—604.8 million common shares valued at P48 billion as at FY17/40 agency—belonged to Cojuangco. The high tribunal dismissed claims that he used money deposited in UCPB to purchase the block as violation of his fiduciary trust and misapplied of charges in view part of the Marcos gang that ripped off the country.

A dissenting justice called the ruling the "joke of the century."

In January, the high court declared that another 24-percent block of SMC shares belonged to the government to be auctioned for the benefit of all coconut farmers and for the development of the coconut industry.

The Philippine Coconut Producers Federation, or Cocofed, has appealed the ruling on this block acquired in a complex scheme involving 14 holding companies. Cocofed is claiming the shares on behalf of 1 million coconut farmers.

The 24-percent block consists of more than 700 million shares originally representing 27 percent of SMC stock, the block was whittled down by SMC's expansion with the entry of the Japanese brewer Kirin.

The block was converted from common to preferred shares in P75 apiece in a deal approved by the Supreme court in 2009 at a great loss to the farmers.

At some point, SMC shares briefed as high as P180 apiece. Dividends accruing to this block had yielded P8.8 billion as of last January.

Another 4-percent of SMC stock belonged to former SMC boss Andres Soriano—127.8 million common shares worth P16 billion at FY17/40 agtees. The block has been converted into treasury warrants. The court has directed SMC to release the bond to the government.

Ruling irreversible

In calling for a review, former Quezon Rep. Oscar Santos noted that the was in the court's ruling, in favor of Cojuangco was 7-4-4 and was "inconclusive."

"The Supreme Court failed to consider in its ruling the 'social context' involved. A big number of our people, especially the farmers, suffer from worsening poverty," Santos said. Justice involves the weighing of public interest as against private desires."

"Measures should now be pursued to meaningfully uplift the lives of a big number of our people," he added.

"The need to lessen their poverty situation has become urgent. This is a unique case. One of a kind, for generes. True is of the enemies," said Santos, 82, who has been in the forefront of the farmers's crusade to recover the levy funds.

Sanlillo, the pro-bono lawyer, said the farmers would urge the Sereno court to pass them another chance to be heard.

He noted that in its resolutions dismissing the farmers' several and third motions for reconsideration on the January 2011 ruling, the tribunal "reiterated the pleadings barring forward proofs," such as Mission duties, the existence of Cojuangco's alleged association with the ladder division.

"We pray that this court will find an substantial just disallow the fact that that decision of funds the constitutional prescription requiring decisions to state the law on which they are based. When seven members of the court concurred in the decision denying the reinvoice of the definition of ill-gotten wealth, and proceeded upon the definition that it made in its effectively promulgated a decision that did not state the pertinent law," Sanlillo said.

He said that in its ruling on the 24-percent block of SMC shares, the court upheld the definition by the Presidential Commission on Good Government of ill-gotten wealth, adopted in the 2005 case of Republic vs. Estate of Hans Menz, where Cojuangco was one of the respondents.

"The unanimous January 2012 decision in favor of the coconut farmers—setting the real and legal definitions of ill-gotten wealth and recognizing the true nature of United Coconut Planters Bank, that is, as a public corporation—effectively sees complete in its ruling the 'social context' involved. A big number of our people, especially the farmers, suffer from worsening poverty," Santos said. Justice involves the weighing of public interest as against private desires."

"Measures should now be pursued to meaningfully uplift the lives of a big number of our people," he added.

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Bahinting to be buried in Cebu hometown today

CEBU City Mayor Michael Rama (2nd from right) with son Jasper Ronaldo Desamparado and son director Fr. Giovanni Ramarama hold over the posthumous Life Saver award to Mrs. Margarita, widow of Captain Bahinting and daughters Jamar Rose and Sarah Jane for recognizing the unknown maidens from Carcigan province in Cebu that saved the seafarer.

By Cris Evert Lato
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The body of Capt. Jessup Bahinting, the pilot of the ill-fated Piper Aztecas that crashed into the seas off Mactan on Aug. 18, was finally flown to Tandag yesterday.

Bahinting, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and Negrali aspirant Fabricio Chaud died in the crash.

On Aug. 21, the body of Bahinting was recovered from the fuselage of the plane, that sank 180 feet around 800 meters from the shoreline. The bodies of Bahinting and Chaud were recovered on Aug. 22 and 23, respectively.

Margaret Rose Velasco, the Bahinting family's designated spokesperson, said the funeral car bearing Bahinting's body left the St. Peter Memorial Chapel in Jones St., Cebu City at around 11 a.m. Sunday for the Asump Mangio's Beach Resort in Ginatilan town, around 130 km southwest of Cebu City. An overnight wake was scheduled at the family's resort in Barangay San Roque, Ginatilan on Sunday.

Ginatilan is the hometown of Bahinting's wife Margarita.

The Cebu City government has offered vehicles for the transport of people who would like to pay their last respects to Bahinting in Ginatilan.

The members of the Coast Commission International will hold their last service at the resort at 2 p.m. today. The family belongs to the Grace Communion International, a Christian denomination based in Southern California.

After the service, the funeral procession scheduled at 3 p.m. will proceed from the resort to the Ginatilan Cemetery where Bahinting will be buried.

Velasco said they were expecting more than 300 people to pay their last respects to Bahinting.

"Some called up and said they will just go to neighboring towns of Moalboal or Samboan in case no rooms or they can be with the family to honor Capt. Bahinting," said Velasco.

Pilots, employees and former aviation employees will wear white shirts bearing "We Love JBB." JBB stands for Jessup M. Bahinting.

Gov't, MILF talks moved due to Robredo death

DAVAO CITY—The exploratory meeting of the peace panels of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) this week was moved to early September in deference to the death of Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said the postponement was requested by the government panel on Aug. 24.

After a successful round on Aug. 7-11, the panels were scheduled to hold another meeting Aug. 27-28 in Kuala Lumpur. The parties earlier decided to hold two meetings in August in a bid to fast-track the negotiations at both targeted the signing of a peace pact within this year.

During the previous round, the parties created two technical working groups (TWGs) to handle detailed discussions on the substantive agenda of power sharing and wealth sharing.

The TWGs transmit parallel to the bilateral meeting. Consensus at the TWGs are subject to approval of the panels.

Robredo, who died in a plane crash off Mactan on Aug. 18, is set to be buried Tuesday in his hometown Naga City to a state funeral. To honor Robredo, President Aquino has declared a state of national mourning beginning Aug. 21 until his burial.

The MILF also described Robredo's being "a strong supporter for the peaceful settlement of the Moro Question and the armed conflict in Mindanao."

"The death of Robredo is not only a loss the family, relatives and to the Aquino administration but also to the peace-making in Mindanao," said Iqbal. Ayee D. Rosario, Inquirer Mindanao

Evelio widow's ashes to be buried beside his grave

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—The ashes of Precious Lotilla-Javier, the widow of slain opposition leader and former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier, will be buried beside the grave of her husband on Aug. 30 her family announced.

Precious, 67, died in the Los Angeles on Aug. 16 after a long bout with cancer.

Her sons Francis Lotilla and Jimel were scheduled to arrive in Manila Sunday evening with her ashes. A wake will be held at the Cleofe the Ring Parish Church at Forest Meadows Subdivision in Quezon City from Sunday to Monday.

Her ashes will be brought to the capitol town of San Jose in Antique Tuesday morning where an overnight wake will be held at the St. Joseph the Worker Cathedral.

Then will be buried beside Javier's grave at the San Jose Cathedral cemetery on Wednesday after an 8 a.m. Mass at the cathedral.

Precious has been living in the United States since the 1980s and for nearly two decades fought for justice for her husband's murder.

Javier was gunned down on Feb. 11, 1986 during the pioneering of votes of the 1986 snap presidential elections between President Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon "Cory" Aquino.

He campaigned for Aquino and his death was among those that hastened the collapse of the dictatorship leading to the Edsa People Power I revolt.

On Dec. 12, 2000, or more than 14 years after Javier's murder, the Antique Regional Trial Court acquitted former assemblyman Rolex Suplicador in Javier's killing.

Suplicador, a strong Marcos ally and political rival of Javier, was tagged as the mastermind but the court said it failed to produce evidence to show he was behind the killing.

But the court found guilty Suplicador's lawyer Avelino "Bob" Javellana and six others mostly Suplicador's security personnel.

Suplicador's son Rodolfo "Ling" Suplicador has resided seven and has been living in Canada.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

A bracing choice

THE APPOINTMENT of Associate Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno as the new chief justice is the true culmination of the Corona impeachment saga. It was always a possibility, but we did not think it was likely; many of the signs seemed to point away from Sereno, primarily because of her young age.

At 52, she is the second-youngest ever to be named chief justice, after Manuel Moran; with 18 years to serve before retirement, she may end up having the second-longest term after Cayetano Arellano's. But in terms of the Supreme Court's role, not only in our system of government but also in history itself, she may be the best-suited to carry out long-lasting judicial reforms. We remember how, in the concerted attempt to subsume the judiciary to protect a former president from all prosecution, she had served as a source of consistent, committed resistance.

EDITORIAL

With two years of service already recorded on the high court, Sereno may also be the perfect blend of the insider and the outsider: She has been on the Court long enough to know where the true levers of power are hidden, but she has not yet been on it long enough to forget what the Court's true priorities are.

Late July, in a speech before her fellow Ateneo de Manila alumni, Sereno spoke of the principles she said she sought to live by as a justice of the Supreme Court; the very first—"I told myself I will never put myself in a situation where I cannot judge rightly"—included the decision to "accept life as a semi-recluse." But while Sereno did not see or wish to see herself as a "media figure," her first two years on the Supreme Court have in fact made her very much a reference point for media. It was not only because of the drama inherent in her appointment to high office, where as the first appointee of President Aquino to the Supreme Court she immediately found herself crossing swords with more senior justices loyal to former President Gloria Arroyo. It was also because her striking directness, like those of Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, were lucidly argued and powerfully presented; they had an impact.

It would be facile to merely assert that Sereno made good copy, although that is also true. Sereno, like Carpio, provided a reminder of what the Supreme Court could be again: a bastion of independent thought.

The one clear most consequential dissenting opinion was the one dated Dec. 13, 2011, which took issue with the court majority regarding Arroyo's attempts to leave the country, but also (and spectacularly) with the way the senior justices of the Court, under Renato Corona, the chief justice at the time, handled her cases thereof.

The opinion began memorably: "Despite serious efforts from any end to advise an officer of the Supreme Court that on action of the Court should be interpreted, such behavior has continued. This opinion is thus rendered in part to remedy the present deficit in truth." A reprimand in writing of the veritable Jose Midas Marquez, the high court's spokesman at the time; a readiness to discuss the high court's own failings; the courage in advance on resolutely new action: I've action of the Court should be interpreted"; rare least, the ability to channel her assertiveness through a polite phrase ("remedy the present deficit in truth")—their beginning strikes us as characteristic Sereno.

We may still continue to hear her hit this note for some time to come; she will not be able to overturn the culture of the high court overnight, and she will have many fronts to mend inside. How she will handle her relationship with Carpio, with whom she had made common cause before and whose intellectual firepower she respects herself, is something that is worth watching closely. Her relationships with the other senior justices, especially those who took sharp positions against her December 2011 dissent, also bears close watching. The ability to create a reasonable consensus is one mark of a great chief justice. And Hacienda Luisita? We think it would be the height of folly for the high court to restrain the case; the justices know how damaging the flip-flopping of the Court in recent years has been to the cause of justice, and to their own prestige.

Altogether, a bracing choice.

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New CJ's priority: Speed up wheels of justice

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SPEAKING NEW Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno has a big job ahead of her. Everybody knows that the judiciary badly needs reform and it is no exception. Its other name is delay. Chief Justice [illegible] time—quickly. Chief among these reforms is to speed up the very slow wheels of justice—perhaps the slowest in the world. A simple case takes years to decide, by which time some of the litigants may be dead or may have had interest because of the delay. Witnesses die or disappear, or are threatened or bribed to change their testimonies. There is plenty of time to do that because of the delay.

The slowest cases are the land cases which often take decades to decide. Most of the time, the original owners or claimants are already dead by the time the courts decide land cases. It is the next generations who have to finish the cases. Often, it is the children or grandchildren of the original litigants who receive the decisions of the courts.

Look at the land cases pending in the sturdy state Courts of Appeals. Many go back to the Spanish and American occupations. Usually, the issue is the genuineness of land titles issued during those long ago regimes. A prime example is the fight over a prime piece of land in Bulacan among several landed families. The case dates back, I think, to the Commonwealth regime. As far as I know, the case is still pending in courts, including the Supreme Court, with them courts changing their decisions, awarding the land, first, to one family and then in a revised decision, to the other family.

Speaking of land claims, one reason squatting is so difficult to root out is that the courts are too slow in deciding ejectment cases against squatters. A simple ejectment case takes the courts many years to decide even when the complainant is clearly the owner as proven by his land title and the squatters, with no claims or evidence at all to their favor, delight in resisting or delaying tactics and with lazy or courtly lenient judges not doing anything to speed up the cases.

That is why many property owners seldom go to court and use other methods to eject the squatters. Going to court is an expensive journey, especially to poor families and even to middle-income families. Oftentimes, the expenses for lawyers' fees and other costs exceed the value of the lot being fought over.

And it is this delay that encourages squatters. Even if there are small claims cases, many want to decide even simple ejectment cases during which time the squatters get to enjoy and profit from the subject property without paying any rent or anything to the owners or any tax to the government.

And because of the small-sized squatting, many communities decay, property prices plunge but the crime rate rises in those communities.

The worst victims of the slow wheels of justice are the detention prisoners. It takes prosecutors a long time to file the cases in court and for the judges to decide their cases, even just to grant them bail, during which time the detainees may be crowded jails and sink deeper into criminality as they learn the "ropes" from hardened criminals in prison with them. Sometimes, they stay there for a longer period than the sentence meted out to them after conviction. And even if the detainee is acquitted, it means nothing to him because he already served time in prison.

Sometimes the culprit in the delay in the administration of justice is the Supreme Court itself. Cases are usually appealed all the way to the highest court which usually takes an eternity to decide on the facts. Lower courts can be chastised by the Supreme Court for sardonic [illegible] but other straight, but nobody can tell the Supreme Court itself to hurry up.

For example, the Supreme Court has not ordered the Court of Appeals to explain nor did it exert any effort to find out why eight appellate justices, one after another, inhibited themselves from a double homicide case against incumbent mayor in Baguio, Cagayan. The accused was elected mayor while the case against him was hibernating.

Right, repeat right, Court of Appeals justices inhibited themselves in so many years from a double homicide case. Isn't that highly unusual and beg-ging-like? Yet the Supreme Court, under different chief justices, did not execute to find out or ask the appellate court what is happening there. And during all that delay, witnesses against the accused have been murdered, or threatened or persuaded to change their testimonies.

I think one of the priorities of Chief Justice Sereno is to find out what is happening in the Court of Appeals and to punish erring justices.

Then there are the lazy and corrupt judges in the lower courts. One reason for the delay is that many are scattered more often than they are heard. Often, the postponement is caused by the absence of the judge. Judges absent themselves without regard to the litigants and the lawyers who use up precious time and money to prepare for the hearing. They spend many days and money going to the court only to be told, when they get there, that the hearing has been postponed because the judge is absent.

But the more serious problem is corruption in the courts. Some judges can be bribed to decide cases a certain way. The clerks is although most everybody knows that the judge has been bribed, it is very difficult to prosecute.

The biggest reason for the delays, of course, is the clogged court dockets. And the reason for the clogging is the lazy judges themselves and the lack of judges. Many courts are not functioning because they have no judges. Why no judges? Lawyers are fair game for all lawyers and because judges say they are not paid enough. But the Supreme Court itself has plenty of savings and the national government can afford to increase the budget of the judiciary.

Copycats

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S COUTEN a lot more hilarious. Hector Villaroyo, The Senate's chief of staff, sees plagiarism is no big deal, the Senate does it all the time. That is so particularly with child bills that were not passed some law [illegible] repeal. Then there are [illegible] resolutions. Villaroyo cites as [illegible] "Copying is a common practice. Why do you need to think of a brand new measure when a good one that was not enacted already exists? Why reinvent the wheel?"

In fact, plagiarism is no big deal not just with bills. Or copy of the time. "We plagiarized the 1987 Constitution. All the amendments became our bill of Rights. But do they tell us a plagiarism committed? No, because the law is based on precedent."

Villaroyo is gone on. "The Bible cracked no [illegible] today because the monks copied from the Greeks. Shakespeare really started from a bible stopping. Even our image was copied from God. We are all plagiarists."

You are rendered almost speechless by this. But may I borrow, no, not really.

To begin with, it's astonishing that Senate officials, which is one point headed the Senate code [illegible] on intellectual property rights, should be clueless about the differences between borrowing and infringing, between retelling and plagiarizing. Indeed, that it should be clueless about the difference between fair, collective or [illegible] and ownership and specific, individual and proprietary authorship.

The difference is patent. You copy the idea of the iPad, you'll be fine, legal or otherwise, as you can see from the plethora of tablets crowding the market. You copy the specific design of the iPad, you are going to have problems, as you can see in the legal battles featuring and others are fighting with Steve Jobs' favorite company. You tell the story of Moroni and Indronesia and Pandora or any of the other Greek myths and legends, you will be guilty only of literary [illegible]. You tell the story of Prometheus and Indronesia and Pandora or any of the [illegible] Buddhist tradition and [illegible], you will be guilty of plagiarism.

You copy the entire 1st Constitution word for word, only the nationalists will mind. You copy the "Star-Spangled Banner" word for word, not only John Bluffed Smith and Francis Scott Key will mind.

As to pirating previous bills, who the hell cares if someone and congressmen copy them left and right without attribution? They can only be guilty of unoriginality or bad taste, the latter coming in the fact that rarely there mind have been good reasons for the bills not having passed in the first place?

I did say something similar when Supreme Court Justice Marvic del Castillo's friends flew in his side and said it was common practice for justices to raid previous decisions and lift entire portions of them. What cares? But it is one thing to do that and quite another to lift word for word a legal opinion or conduct research by a definite author without attribution. The first again is just bad taste, the second is plagiarism. What makes del Castillo's case all the more heinous is that he did not just plagiarize, he twisted the author's. Even Castillo's words to mean the very opposite of what he did. Castillo argued that the State had the right to prosecute the case of the country's women abroad. Del Castillo argued [using Castillo's own words] it did not. That is fraud.

And in fact might object to the same way to cite claim that we were made in his image and likeness. "If you're going to plagiarize," he might thunder forth, "Plagiarize correctly and not the 3rd Castillo way. What are you as deliberately screwing up the meaning of the words by your own likeness. It is the opposite of them!"

But whether it's just copying ideas or downright plagiarizing them, Villaroyo's justification only show us how entrenched we have become.

The plagiarizing shows the depths to which the country's respect for writers, now mind for authorship, has plunged. The people who have been caught plagiarizing have blamed their staff for it, as though they were not themselves ultimately responsible. But even if we grant it, why to God's name did The Sons, or indeed Manny Pangilinan, with all the millions in their disposal have writers whose ostensible only in the capacity to raid other people's works? Or worse, in plagiarize us so long, prefer to plagiarize Oprah Winfrey and a blog from that they interpret to advance their causes instead of some more reformed one than?

You can afford de comparable lawyers and other consultants but only plagiarists without [illegible] plagiarists.

The "more" copying, on the other hand, shows how little we've advanced from the stage of imitating and aping and mimicking. Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery to the imitated, but it is the shallowest form of accomplishment for the imitator. We've always been known as a people with an eye to memory talent for mimicry we've never really been known—false aside—as one with an extraordinary talent for originality. Villaroyo's assertion can only deepen that impression.

If it's true that senators in particular and we in general have no respect for writers, now mind for authorship, but plunged. The people who have been caught plagiarizing have blamed their staff for it, as though they were not themselves ultimately responsible. But even if we grant it, why to God's name did The Sons, or indeed Manny Pangilinan, with all the millions in their disposal have writers whose ostensible only in the capacity to raid other people's works? Or worse, in plagiarize us so long, prefer to plagiarize Oprah Winfrey and a blog from that they interpret to advance their causes instead of some more reformed one than?

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If it's true that senators in particular and we in general have no respect for writers, now mind for authorship, and show us the best we can be. They are not there to parrot, praise and show us we can always get away with it. If Villaroyo's characterization of the Senate is accurate, and it may very well be so, then that not very august body deserves only its share of the proper sentencing. Darwin Cal's embarrassing line in the movie "Bitching Walking Dingaling."

You're walking [illegible] second-rate, toying hand copycats.

Bishops at war

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IS IT THE wake of the controversy about the Reproductive Health bill a couple of bishops have gone to war against university professors and, in the process, have aimed dire warnings against Catholic universities. They threaten stopping universities of the title Catholic. I doubt that the bishops were thinking about what is happening to the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru because there is only one Pontifical Catholic University in the Philippines, and it is not the Ateneo. In any case, are the bishops waging a just war? I will not attempt to answer that question. I will simply share with you my problems and the unfortunate case with one of the professors.

But as election time approaches, there is also a threatening war against defenders of the RH bill who might dare run for public office in the coming elections. And since we, and not only bishops, are interested in the Church's teaching on church and politics, we might all have something from what a young lesuit colleague of mine has put together to a piece from which I will freely quote at parts please. (Let this mention of my young colleague count as the required acknowledgment of sources needed to avoid accusations of plagiarism.)

Will a bishop's pastoral letter influence who supports the RH bill get the support of Pope Benedict XVI in "Deus est Caritas," Benedict XVI emphasized the old Catholic teaching that the formation of a just society as a political task is not a direct duty of the Church; this task belongs properly to the laity. This is why the Church's endeavors to justify reason and inspire ethical political participation leading to the building of a more just society.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) itself, as a plenary body, does not endorse nor disapprove candidates, but it allows individual bishops to do so. Such a two-level approach to granting or denying political blessings to candidates may prove to be confusing for Filipino Catholic voters who usually identify the statements and actions of individual bishops as the moral position of the entire hierarchy. But that is the price we pay for freedom of expression which, without question, is a very much loved, in-built value.

It is also good to recall what the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP2) taught. My young colleague shared these quotations from PCP2:

"The public defense of gospel values, however, especially when carried out by the voice of public authority hierarchies, whether through the advocacy of lay leaders or the moral reasoning by pastors, is not without limit: it needs emphasizing, first, although pastors have the liberty to participate in policy debates and formulations, [that liberty] is not [to be exercised] to the detriment of the religious freedom of other communitarians, or even of dissenting communicants. This is a clear implication of Vatican II's 'Ecclesiae Sanctitatem.' This is not just a matter of prudence; it is a matter of justice.

"There may even be some Catholic lawyers who in all honesty do not see the truth this way, the Church's magisterium discerns, interprets and teaches it. In such a situation, the Church must clearly and firmly teach what it believes is the truth and require its members to form their consciences accordingly. Yet the Church must allow, with all charity and justice, belief on in its doctrine on religious freedom...that the human person is bound to follow his or her conscience faithfully, and must not be forced to act contrary to it."

When a bishop tells his pro-RH bill congressional candidate that his divorce will campaign against him or her in future elections, the bishop is no longer working to persuade the legislators about the reasonableness of the Church's position but rather the bishop is simply appealing to the legislator's instinct of self-preservation. Such a tactic is counter productive to the formation of a kind of politics that is based on principles because it reinforces a way of practicing politics that values expediency rather than services, justice and the common good.

Besides, the threat against candidates would be meaningful if there were such a thing as a Catholic vote. The CBCP itself, in its Catechism on Church and Politics for the 1998 elections, had denied the existence of a Catholic vote: "There is generally no such thing as a 'Catholic vote' or 'the Bishops' candidates'." This is simply a myth. It still is today.

The CBCP Catechism provided for an extraordinary exception when a politician runs under the law which prohibits no one convicted political opinion:

"But it happens when a politician's opinion is clearly objectionable and condemned by the Church. An example is when a presidential candidate is clearly hostile to divorce; the Church and its ministers of salvation and has all the resources to win, while hiding his irredeemable intentions behind political promises. In this case the Church is not sufficiently informed to demand the faithful, even under pain of sin, to vote against this particular candidate. But such situations are indeterminable very rare.

The CBCP intended this exception to be used only on rare and grave occasions such as when the survival of the Church and its mission would be at stake. I doubt that the CBCP would apply this to a bishop's desire to apply pastoral pressure on a legislator to vote against the RH bill.

More than Galahad

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Nerafrin Mantaña

DO YOU still remember the names of the knights of the Round Table? I can't either, except for the less than one Sherman teachers in Grade 5 emphasized as role models. In fact, we were made to memorize not just their names but the significant traits attached to their names like royal titles.

I remember most Lancelot the Brave (who was destined in the heart of King Arthur), Percival the Pure, Gawain the Wise, and Galahad the Good. It was Galahad we wanted to emulate and the one who, we were certain, discovered (or find the Holy Grail. (Dan Brown and his "Da Vinci Code" would of course decades away from the printing press.)

Sir Galahad (the Good) came to my mind as I was watching, with deep sadness, the neurological storm brewing a good man, Brainiac Jesse Robredo. Jesse is dead. And as he is, such a true leader and role model is more valuable

'Hypocrisy beyond compare'

FORMER President Gloria Arroyo

LETTERS

Dead appearing to the living

Imitating Jesse Robredo

COMMENTARY

Dente Murphy

Reasons why there's urgent need for FOI law's enactment

Need for a parliament

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Abu Sayyaf suspect nabbed, but group cites mistaken identity

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A suspected Abu Sayyaf member, who was the subject of at least three warrants for kidnapping and other charges, was arrested in Isabela City in Basilan around 9:40 a.m. on Saturday, the police said.

Chief Supt. Bhanie Asvendo, police director in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said Usmin Abdul Jundal alias Abdul Bahyong, who has a bounty of P500,000 for his capture, was arrested on the basis of warrants issued by Judge Deside Baroja of a Basilan regional trial court.

Nixon Kallon, executive director of the Basilan Human Rights Action Network, said authorities had arrested the wrong suspect.

He said the police arrested Ambans Jundal, 41, a barangay official of Tairan, Isabela City.

Kallon said the Jundal the police got was on trial in the murder and abduction of the Basilan Ulama Supreme Council.

"It's another case of mistaken identity again," he said.

Kallon said they had been trying to track down where Jundal was brought but the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) would not give any information.

Asvendo said based on the report reaching him, Jundal was being kept at the CIDG Western Mindanao headquarters here. *Artie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Moro rebels attack anew; 5 wounded

HOMECOMING
Jesse Robredo, former interior and local government secretary and Naga City mayor, goes on his ship hall of Naga for the last time, as a coffin carried by honor guards. JOVEL GALUSTIK

COTABATO CITY—Five militiamen were wounded when members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) tossed a grenade at a detachment of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) in Datu Hoffer town in Maguindanao on Saturday night.

Lt. Col. Rowie Langub, chief of the 39th Infantry Batallon which has supervision over all Cafgus in Maguindanao, said the victims were having an early evening congregational Muslim prayer when the grenade struck happened.

Rushed to the Maguindanao provincial hospital in nearby Shariff Aguak town were gunsmith Tata Salih, Kumal Guiabolin, Dasno Ali and Yusalin Upam, all with shrapnel injuries in different parts of their bodies.

Speaking for the 6th Infantry Division, Col. Pendiosio Aniceto said four BIFF members launched the K-Kliq at. attack.

"They went on board two separate motorcycles and as they approached the detachment, they tossed the explosive," Aniceto said.

Thousands of Moro civilians evacuated to evacuation centers almost a month after BIFF forces simultaneously attacked military installations in Maguindanao's five towns.

Many of the evacuees refused to return home and preferred to stay in evacuation sites unless normalcy has been fully restored in their communities.

On Sunday, after three weeks of class suspension, elementary and high school classes in five towns have resumed, according to Meriam Kiram, Maguindanao division 1 supervisor of the Department of Education.

Classes in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao where Maguindanao belongs begin Sundays and end Thursdays; Fridays and Saturdays are rest days.

"The evacuees have to remain in the classrooms and stay outside during class hours and re-enter at night," Kiram said, adding that some 7,000 students have to cope with the missed lessons by adding additional class hours per day. *Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

7 mayors, 4 vice mayors vow to continue Robredo legacy

By Marice Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Local officials on a special academic program in the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) founded by Jesse Robredo have vowed to continue the legacy of good governance set by the late secretary of the interior and local government.

The seven mayors and four vice mayors, scholars on a master's degree program on development management and governance at UPLB, are sponsored by the Local Government Academy (LGA), the training arm of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

The pioneers referred to themselves as the "Multiling 13" or "Jesse's Scholars."

Only 11 of 190 officials who applied for admission into the program passed the screening.

The pioneers referred to themselves as the "Multiling 13" or "Jesse's Scholars."

"We are very thankful [to Robredo, who] immediately approved this program. This is really worth the effort," said scholar Sorsogon Vice Mayor Jacqueline Ann Ramos-Lee.

The other scholars are Mayors Jeremy Jones Bueno III of Sanna, Buena Sur; Vice Governor Alvin de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro; Gwendolyn Erles of Gonzaga, Sinuggan Island; Melissa de la Cruz of Maragondon, Cavite; Honorato Ortiol Jr. of Barug Lanao del Norte; Leandro Elauge of Bilisan, Bilisan; and Vice Mayors Alexander Lubrano of Subano, Sirawai Zamboanga; Jeanne Mallapre of Magallanes, Cavite; Maria Cleota Limbaro of Bayabas, Surigao del Sur; and Gabriel Bartolabe Jr. of Naga City, Camarines Sur.

Mayor Bueno said Robredo "believed that in order to [achieve] reforms, there [must] be learned men and women who are willing to live up to these learnings of good governance."

UPLB professor Danielle Cortez said the program, aimed at "bridging" the theoretical and practical sides of the government, expected the scholars to be "progressive thinkers with a broader perspective for human development" as the end of the one-and-a-half-year course.

Bartolabe, who was interviewed by phone since he had to stay in Naga City to attend Robredo's funeral, said the course was the "legacy" of Robredo, who drafted the final program.

"Secretary Robredo was a sincere man, a quiet but effective leader, who inspired everyone whose life he touched by example and by his humility," he said.

Bueno proposed that the last way for the government to remember him was to continue the program he started.

Meanwhile, the human-rights group Bayanihan and the families and friends of victims of human-rights violations in Bicol joined the nation in mourning the passing of Robredo.

In a statement on Sunday, Bayanihan said Robredo exemplified "honest and dependable public service." It said Robredo was an official who endeavored to protect public welfare, as shown by his prompt action in the investigation of the abduction and killing of Nadel Rebollido, a student of Malilipot, Albay province, and a member of Bayan Muna Bicol who was reportedly abducted by the military after being a member of the communist New People's Army. With a report from Jenica Cabillo Aviles, *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Robbers break jewelry display panel

By Dolly T. Maluenda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Three suspected robbers took away a still undetermined amount of jewelry in a daring daytime heist at the city's commercial district on Saturday morning, the second such incident reported in a span of one month, police said.

Senior Insp. Salvacion de Leon, Quezon police chief, said at around 9 a.m. the robbers who were armed with handguns barged inside the Racquel Perez shop branch along Zamora Street and immediately grabbed the .38-caliber revolver of the surprised lone security guard.

He said the gunmen were unable to enter the pawnshop office because one of the employees immediately locked the door, but the robbers succeeded in breaking the lock of the jewelry display panel at the lobby.

The robbers took off the valuables and escaped with three other cohorts who acted as lookouts aboard two motorcycles, said de Leon.

Marcos Sira, one of three pawnshop clients at the time of the robbery, said the suspects moved fast as they were able to pull off the heist in five minutes.

De Leon said the robbers were members of "small-time robbery gangs."

On July 26, three armored van security guards of the United Coconut Planters Bank branch in front of Luzac Archbishop Cathedral here were shot dead in a daring afternoon robbery. The bank lost about P8 million to the robbers, police said.

Neil Armstrong, Earth's first moonwalker, dies; 82

CINCINNATI, Ohio—Neil Armstrong was a self-described "nerdy" engineer who became a global hero when as a nearly surreal US pilot he made "one giant leap for mankind" with the first step on the moon. The modest man who championed and saved people on Earth has died at age 82.

Armstrong died on Saturday following "complications resulting from cardiovascular procedures," a statement from his family said. It did not say where he died.

He had undergone heart bypass surgery earlier this month in Cincinnati, now where he lived. His recovery had been going well and his death came as a surprise to many close to him, including his fellow Apollo astronauts.

Armstrong commanded the Apollo 11 spacecraft that landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, capping the most daring of the 20th century's scientific expeditions. His first words after setting foot on the surface are etched in history books and in the memories of those who heard them in a live broadcast.

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Armstrong said.

ARMSTRONG: First man to walk on the moon in 1969 AP FILE PHOTO

In peace he all mankind."

'Eagle has landed'

President John F. Kennedy had committed the United States to achieving the goal, before the decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth. It was done with more than five months to spare.

Armstrong and Aldrin steered their landing craft Eagle to a rock-strewn plain near the shore of the Sea of Tranquility. It was touch and go the last minute or two, with computer alarms sounding and fuel running low that they made it.

"Houston, Tranquility Base here," Armstrong radioed to mission control. "The Eagle has landed."

"Roger, Tranquility," mission control replied. "We copy you on the ground. You've got a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We're breathing again. Thanks a lot."

The entire world have been said for hundreds of millions of people around the world watching on television.

The third astronaut on the mission, Michael Collins, circled the moon in the similar ship Columbia while Armstrong and Aldrin went in the moon's surface.

Symbol of unreachable

In all, 12 Americans naval men followed in a parallel procession that ended the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.

The Apollo 11 mission capped a tumultuous decade.

The 1960s in America had started with such promise, with the election of a youthful president, inspired with the cold-war-era anxieties of the Cold War. Then it touched greatness in the civil rights movement, only to implode in the years of assassinations and campus riots.

But before it ended, human beings had reached that long-time symbol of the unreachable.

The monumentally ennobled America's victory in the Cold War space race that began on Oct. 4, 1957, with the launch of the Soviet Union's Sputnik 1, a satellite that sent shock waves around the world.

Largest audience

An estimated 600 million people watched and listened to the moon landing, the largest audience for any single event in history.

Parents huddled with their children in front of the family television, mesmerized. Strangers abandoned their nightly walking duties, and motorists pulled off the highway and shocked into awe just to watch on TV.

Armstrong never allowed himself to be caught up in the celebrity and glamor of the space program.

"I am, and ever will be, a white- socks, pocket protector, nerdy engineer," he said in 2000 in one of his rare public appearances. "And I take a substantial amount of pride in the accomplishments of my profession."

Armstrong went public in 2010 with his concerns about US President Barack Obama's space policy that shifted attention away from a return to the moon and emphasized private companies developing spaceships.

1st plane ride

In a statement, Obama said Armstrong was one of the greatest of American heroes, "not just of his time, but of all time."

Armstrong was born on Aug. 5, 1930, on a farm in Ohio. He took his first airplane ride at age 6 and developed a fascination with aviation that prompted him to build model airplanes and conduct experiments in a homemade wind tunnel. He won the award to fly at 16, before he got his driver's license.

He enrolled in Purdue University to study aeronautical engineering but was called to duty in 1949 and flew 78 combat missions in Korea. He was the recipient of the Arthur A. Michener wrote of in "The Bridges at Toko-Ri."

Armstrong married Carol Knight in 1956. He had two adult sons from a previous marriage. *Reporting from AP and New York Times Anne Garrison*

Robredo extolled for 'tsinelas' leadership

Rappler.com

Naga City on Sunday morning.

The ordinary Cabinet meeting was called "Kogi"—handsome—died in a plane crash in Bicol province on Aug. 18, leaving President Aquino suddenly without a popular and supportive ally to handle the consolidation of power he has been accumulating. He died in his local and congressional elections next year.

Cabinet secretaries, along with Vice President Jejomar Binay and Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., celebrated Robredo in songs, laughter and speeches.

As mourners filed past Robredo's bier at Rizal Hall, they performed Robredo's favorite songs in between eulogies, drawing smiles from the President and Robredo's widow, Jun and children Aika, Tricia and Jillian.

Eulogy

In his eulogy titled "Tsinelas," Almendras recalled that when Mr. Aquino called a Cabinet meeting to the military head quarters in the aftermath of the Aug. 7 massive flooding in the capital, he was amazed to see Robredo looking as cool in rubber slippers.

Even later, he said, when the President and the Cabinet officials moved to evacuation centers, Robredo disappeared from the van, but showed up later on stage, wearing slippers. Robredo once prepared, as they waded in the floods at the entrance to a school in Valenzuela City.

"He'll tell me: 'Pare, dun si dito ngayon sa Cabinet, ako na lang dito sa baha,'" Almendras said. He described Robredo's tsinelas leadership as a "practical" and "a more demonstrative version of servant leadership."

As Almendras says it, Robredo's leadership has many layers. The first, Almendras said, is willingness to wade in floods and travel to the most far-flung areas "to be with the most disadvantaged people."

"We all know Secretary Jesse Robredo is very much like that. He was one of the most well-traveled Cabinet members. He went to many places where some of us could not go to," he said.

His practice of treating himself as the lowest of the low right of the top of the food is a testament to how his Robredo would prefer "not to reach people," he added.

Another characteristic of Robredo's leadership, he said, was breaking down the barriers between and the people we serve.

"Many years ago, a young architect told me: I will design it so nicely so that those tired in slipper will be able to get in. We're there in Malacañang. You're here at Malacañan Hall. Look around you. This place was not designed for tsinelas. And yes last night, and through our time of today, how many thousands of slippers came into that room to pay tribute, to pay homage to our beloved Secretary Jesse?" Almendras said, referring to the mourners filing into the American-era hall to pay their last respects to Robredo.

"Leaders must be acceptable, We're here to show they serve. That was Secretary Jesse Robredo, he added.

And, of course, what is tsinelas leadership but being on real with people?

Almendras said: "That really

Genuine concern

A day before Robredo died, Almendras said he got a call from the interior secretary who usually so concerned about why flood waters in Bulacan, a province north of Manila, had not subsided and what could be done about it.

Almendras said he promised to bring it up with Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson.

"The very last line he told me was: 'Sil right, pare. Our countrymen are really in a pitiful state.' That is tsinelas leadership. A genuine concern for the welfare of the people that we serve. That is Secretary Jesse Robredo to us true context," Almendras said.

Robredo was wearing slippers long before flip-flops and Hawaiian shirts became fashionable, Almendras said.

"My wish and prayer is the tsinelas leadership begun by Secretary Jesse will become fashionable," he said. Then turning to Robredo's widow, he said: "Attorney Leni, (Ing) is also a fashion trendsetter. It would be first-hotfoot for cancellation in the 2013 election in Sorsogon. I hope that wasn't just be for picture-taking. I hope they will step up to the standards that have been set by Secretary Jesse Robredo, and that they will be worthy to wear the tsinelas."

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo officials rose from their seats and proceeded to the front of the bier and, clutching copies of lyrics, they sang Robredo's favorite songs, "Tsinelas" and "Bayan Ko."

They ended Frank Sinatra's famous song with the lyrics: "It was Jesse's way," strategic communication Secretary Ricky Carandang, the emcee, later said, "You know, I always hated that song, but tonight I liked it."

The Cabinet members then lifted and final song, The Beatles' "Imagine by Cully Bitter" to Leni Robredo, with Justice Secretary Leila de Lima leading. The song was the Robredo couple's favorite, and the scene of Cabinet members' service, Sen. Cohen gon performed two songs, serving the tone for a night of entertainment and laughter.

Earlier, during the Liberal Party's memorial service, Cayo Al cused and Chrysalis Business song singer Jessa Zaragoza performed People that we serve. This is Secretary Jesse Robredo to us true context," Almendras said.

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Left fielding Casiño in 2013 senatorial elections

From page A1

Coalition political party are working to field a team candidates. Bayan Muna lawmaker Teddy Casiño, for the 2013 senatorial elections.

Casiño said he and Makabayan were prepared to weather the electoral contest regardless of whether a major political party would team up with Bayan Muna and/or allied groups.

Makabayan plans to embark on grass-roots campaigning, tap partnerships with local leaders and use social media, Casiño said at a dinner with journalists attended by this celebrity endorsement would be welcome, too.

"I will run, whatever happens. That is our main plug," said Casiño, a veteran of street protests against administration policies and projects. He will crash the end of his third and last term as Bayan Muna representative next year.

Casiño said he was still open to being adopted by a major party with Vice President Jejomar Binay's United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) the most likely likely group that could draft him. But his run for the Senate is not hinged on a major party's blessing.

CASIÑO

"Our scenario is I would be a part of UNA, or I would be allowed to guest in other parties. But that's just cream. That wasn't just be a bonus," he said.

Casiño said there was no more question in the mind of leftist groups about fielding a candidate for the Senate. He believed the people were ready for new representation who would speak about gut issues such as the rising cost of fuel, electricity and water.

Not even Makabayan's erstwhile shallow 'pookers could dismiss the group, he said.

"I am promoting the idea of an alternative candidate, a voice of the ordinary people," said the former Bayan lawmaker.

Makabayan secretary general Neri Colmenares said it was time for someone who spoke with the people's voice and who did not succumb to public office just by dint of political pedigree to join the Senate.

Saturnino said Makabayan would not have fielding small, dated for the chance to help more people.

"When the progressives entered electoral politics, it was a serious move. It's not as if we are still debating every election on whether to run for progressives or reach more people," he said.

Saturnino further said that Makabayan wanted people in the electorate that having a member of the Left was not a negative factor. Makabayan's ordeals, the late Bhuta Guiteo, once told the group that people must know that the Left was a good thing.

"Being leftist means opposing anti-people policies and the status quo, and asking for change," Saturnino said.

Some may dub an independent-leaning quasi-quixotic, what with a visible run usually novel, unpolished multimillion person, which only major parties are prepared to spend, but Casiño believes it is not impossible.

The lawmaker noted that only one candidates were able to join the Senate, even if they did not belong to a political dynasty or had no deep pockets, like Sen. Antonio Trillanes who won eleven of votes though he campaigned from his prison cell. Trillanes, a Navy officer, was jailed after staging two uprisings against then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The scenario are not going into the midterm elections in May next year would be experienced.

In 2010, Makabayan fielded senatorial candidates Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna and Liza Maza of Gabriela. The two were drafted into the slate of Nacionalista Party presidential candidate Manuel Villar. Neither Ocampo nor Maza made it to the Magic 12.

From this, the activists have learned valuable lessons.

For one, Makabayan is fielding just one senatorial candidate next year. This way, its efforts and resources could be concentrated on Casiño. Makabayan claims to have a total base of about 3.5 million and says it is working on expanding this.

Casiño said the Makabayan bloc started preparing early for the 2013 elections by strengthening and widening its local network as early as 2010.

Fifteen Ocampo-and Maza ran, the group only had about 10 months for laying down the groundwork and for campaigning. This time, it is shooting many rims to marshalling support for Casiño and maximizing his exposure.

For 2013, Makabayan would top all of the "meaningful inclusionistic" that its members have established with people on the ground. This includes equal footing other candidates, Casiño noted.

"Unlike an ordinary candidate who has no people [on the ground] and who is totally dependent on the political operation, we have people on the ground," he said.

Makabayan would also bargain with local leaders and enter into partnerships for mutual support, independent of their political party. Many local leaders do not necessarily follow the party line and are usually free to form alliances with people with a different affiliation, Casiño said.

This would mean going from province to province and from region to region to meet with numerous leaders. But it is something that needs to be done by a young, political party that is not awash in cash.

"We have to go into word campaigning," Casiño said. "It's a lot of work, but that's the only way an independent can win."

Makabayan would also have to maximize its use of social media, he said. It could not go head to head with the major parties in television advertising.

Casiño is also hoping for a celebrity endorsement, although he has yet to decide on his dream endorser. TV host Boy Abunda has signified of wanting to support him, he noted.

But one group that is fully behind him is his family consisting of his wife, fellow activist Barb Cervantes, and their two young sons, Ilian and Camilo.

Casiño said Bayan Muna's consistent victory for a seat in the House of Representatives, with him as one of the nominees, showed him that people were ready for him in the Senate bid.

"They're ready for new representation in the Senate," he said.

Demons of Luisita case hound new Chief Justice

From page A1

honored patterns of succession in the court's hierarchy.

The President broke the norm by picking the Chief Justice not from among the five most senior justices, but by pole-vaulting between, who ranked 13th on the succession line, over their heads, leaving rankling resentment among those bypassed. Most of the senior justices did not attend Sereno's oath-taking on Saturday before Mr. Aquino in Malacañang.

1st Aquino appointee

The most galling action is that Sereno is the first appointee of the Aquino administration to the Supreme Court, in a 15-seat tribunal packed by appointees of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

There are many "first" tradition-leaving events in the changing of guard in the court, following the dismissal by impeachment of Renato Corona as Chief Justice in May. All these changes have implications for the independence of the Supreme Court relative to the political branches of government (the executive and legislature), especially for Aquino administration's campaign to dismiss Corona from the high court.

At 59, Aquino stands to revamp the Supreme Court with the appointment of his own protégés, it's important to note that Sereno was appointed as the youngest Chief Justice at the age of 52, after Chief Justice Ithamel Moran, who was appointed Chief Justice at 55 years of age in 1945, and the first female Chief Justice. She will serve for 18 years, until mandatory retirement at 70, making her Chief Justice for life.

These breaks with tradition, however, take secondary importance to the issue unbreaking the court. The foremost concern of the Filipino people about these changes appears to be the question of whether an independent and a stronger judiciary would come out of the reformed leadership of the Supreme Court.

Mirror image

In appointing Sereno as Chief Justice, the President is remolding the court's character in the image of his policy goal of eradicating corruption by putting his mirror image in charge of the judiciary. Mr. Aquino picked Sereno from a short list of eight nominees vetted by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), five of whom were nominated from the legal sector.

Despite Sereno's impressive credentials, including academic record, years of experience as a lawyer for more than 26 years, professor of law mainly at the University of the Philippines, concerns have been expressed over her backbone's capacity to resist pressure from an executive that "does checked with holistic flowing from outside in exerting the limited just regime's Chief Justice Corona.

Sereno's CV is hard to fault, but her Malacañan academic and professional pedigree does not give an assurance of her ability to overcome her perceived bias in favor of presidential decisions and to stand up against the interference of the political branches in judiciary affairs.

Pointers have aimed down on her as an "excellent choice" from a wide sector, including legal circles, high political circles, colleagues on the bench and the business community. The Palcoma solution has resulted hyperbolic proportions.

Superwoman

The Makati Business Club said it all in its statement that former "is a morally upright person with impeccable integrity, independent-minded, and competent."

"The impeachment trial of former Chief Justice Corona derailed the country and greatly tested the faith of the people in our justice system. We sincerely hope our new Chief Justice rebuilds people's trust in the institution by ensuring transparency and accountability in the courts," the statement said.

It's hard to contradict those sentiments. The praises tried to build up into a superwoman on all counts—social and ethical qualities—and it is hoped that it is understood that those exuberant expectations on Sereno are humanly an unforgiving burden on her that might be hard to bear.

In accepting the appointment, Sereno simply said she was "overwhelmed." Asked about her independence, she said, "Everyone can be assured that there will be nothing that they will see."

The appointment of Sereno relatively did not have something to do with her opinion related to the valuation of compensation to the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita for the distribution of the estate to its farm workers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, a major social reform legislation of Mr. Aquino's mother, President Cory Aquino.

Bias on hacienda

On July, the issue soared its head when Arroyo-appointed Rep. Rudolf Matinez accused Sereno of allegedly being biased in favor of President Aquino's family, which owns the sugar plantation, because of her opinion that that higher compensation should be given to Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) and Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco).

According to Martinez, Sereno set the valuation of the estate at 2006 prices which would have given HLI P1 billion in compensation.

The Supreme Court has decided to compromise the land-owners based on the Nov. 21, 1989, valuation instead of the 2006 rates. Sereno was one of the justices who voted unanimously on April 24, 2012, to order distribution of the estate to its workers, but to a subsequent decision, she wrote a dissenting opinion on compensation.

The Cojuangco family issued a statement last year a statement that they accept all of the ruling, according to a World Social estate reform report, but simultaneously filed an appeal that land be valued at 2006 prices. (P2.45 million per hectare) rather than 1989 prices (P40,000 per hectare). The appeal is pending with the reformed Quezon Marawali Supreme Court.

This is where the demons of the Hacienda Luisita case have caught up with Chief Justice Sereno. It has put her in a conflict of interest bind. It puts on a test where her loyalty lies—the interests of her political patron's family or the interests of fair and impartial administration of justice?

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HEROISM GOES AWRY

PMA cadet shot in robbery

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A GRADUATING cadet of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) was reported to be in critical condition after he was shot in the neck when he tried to stop a robber inside a passenger jeepney in Quezon City around noon the other day.

Alfonso Aviles, 23, a first class cadet of the premier military academy and a native of San Jose del Monte in Bulacan province, remains under observation at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Hospital.

The police said they were looking for the robber who escaped after he shot Aviles. The still unidentified man fled with the victim's Palm Inoll ring.

Aviles was supposed to be one of the cadets assigned to serve as pracons in yesterday's PMA entrance examinations in testing centers in Metro Manila.

In a report, Quezon City Police District Fairview station chief Supt. Virgilio Fabian said that at noon on Saturday, the victim was inside a passenger jeepney at the corner of Regalado and Mindanao Avenues in Barangay Greater Lagro when a man took out a cal. .45 firearm and declared a holdup.

As he started divesting a woman passenger of her belongings, Aviles tackled him and tried to take his gun away from him.

The robber, however, shot him in the neck with the bullet exiting through the victim's face. As Aviles fell, the armed man took the Gull ring from his finger and fled.

The driver of the passenger jeepney, Rodolfo'dito Bala, immediately brought the wounded cadet to Fairview General Hospital where he was given first aid before his transfer to AFP Hospital.

WANTED: EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS
A woman in Marikina City has her hands full as she struggles to open her umbrella against a stiff breeze, hold up a pail and keep a firm grip on a fighting cock all at the same time.

BACK TO NORMAL
A fisherman prepares to cast his net in the Marikina River during high tide. The water level in the river has returned to normal following the recent monsoon rains which led to floods that inundated a huge part of Marikina City and caused the evacuation of residents living near the riverbanks.

DID YOU KNOW

THERE were 2,000 applications were reported nationwide from Jan. 1 to July 7 this year or around 120.7 percent higher than the 887 recorded cases during the same period in 2011, according to data from the Department of Health. Of the total, 58 cases were from the National Capital Region. **Schadd Dandala Inquirer Research**

Demolition of houses in high-risk areas set

By Jeannette I. Andrade

KALOOKAN Mayor Recaredo Echiverri ordered Quezon City officials to be sensitive about issuing building permits for projects near the Valley fault line as he also ordered them to immediately notify owners of houses or establishments built on the three-meter easement of the city's sewerways to vacate their property which are slated for demolition.

Aiming to make the city "the safest here," the mayor said that a top priority for Quezon City's risk reduction and disaster preparedness is the implementation of the three-meter easement along creeks and rivers, thus of concern is the Valley fault line which passes through several areas in the city.

Echiverri instructed city engineer Jennifer Cabungcal and city building official Isagani Serrano to immediately implement the three-meter easement policy on the city's waterways and demolish private or public property that might encroach on them.

He likewise directed Cabungcal, Serrano and officials of the Quezon City Public Protection and Disaster Management Council, Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department and Barangay Operations Center to notify owners of establishments along the three-meter easement of creeks and rivers to immediately vacate these areas for their safety while assuring affected families of their relocation under the Urban Development and Housing Act.

At the same time, he reminded Cabungcal and Serrano to be strict in issuing permits for construction along or near the Valley fault line noting, "We cannot be late in the evaluation of permits, not blocked in the giving of exemptions for developments along or near the fault line."

He pointed out that the safety of residents should be given priority. "We must make sure that constructions are orderly to accordance with the construction and building standards that ensure safety against earthquake risks."

The Valley fault line runs along the periphery of the city through the eastern boundary from the down drop area east of Tandang Sora to the northeast to Barangays Bagong Silangan and Upper Norfo in the southeast.

Barangays Bagong Silangan and Payatas are among the areas in Quezon City identified by the Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study as highly susceptible to earthquakes.

Wanted car theft gang leader falls

By Nikko Calleja

THE POLICE finally caught up with one of the most wanted men in the metropolis, ending a standoff that started earlier this year.

Ronald Gomez Santiago, also known as Onad, 32, was arrested at 11 a.m. yesterday inside a four-door apartment in Mangagoñon, Cavite, with two other men identified as Aldrich Vda Perez, 31 and Joseph Lagrimas Hilario, 28.

According to the police, Santiago is the leader of the notorious Onad car theft and robbery group. Fifteen warrants have been issued for his arrest for his involvement in at least 15 criminal cases which range from robbery and illegal drugs to car theft and murder, they added.

The is facing charges in Las Piñas, Makati, Pasay and Muntinlupa courts and most of them are Civil robbery cases," Chief Supt. Bernie Salupan, chief of the Southern Police District, told the reporters.

Lacquis said that Santiago was able to evade prolonged detention because most of the cases filed against him were for bailable offenses.

He back, however, ran out on Sunday.

The 15-man team from the Muntinlupa police which raided his Cavite house was armed with an arrest warrant issued by Judge Marjorie T. Uyenguo-Malanes of the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court in May for a case of double-murder, a nonbailable offense.

Seized from the house were an Imac seven types of firearms and ammunition.

"The suspects had several firearms but we caught them by surprise," said Senior Supt. Hilario Aldrich, Muntinlupa police chief, adding that as the case of the raid, Santiago and his cohorts "were sleeping."

Lacquis said the local police were able to crack down Santiago after a robbery in a residential area in Parañaque on April 14 this year was captured by a closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera.

He added that in the course of their investigation, they learned that Perez, who they had identified through the footage taken by the CCTV, and his cohorts were being supervised by Santiago.

It by tracking the calls on Perez's cell phone as well as text messages from their informants, the police finally found Santiago.

"This is a breakthrough. Santiago is the leader of one of the big groups in Metro Manila operating. [a group much more notorious than that of the Dominguez brothers," Soliano said.

Raymund and Roger Dominguez, leaders of another car theft group, are behind bars for the killing of car dealers Ernesto Evangelista and Xiaoxu Lozano in January last year.

Demolition of houses in high-risk areas set

By Jeannette I. Andrade

MAYOR Herbert Bautista has ordered Quezon City officials to be sensitive about issuing building permits for projects near the Valley fault line as he also ordered them to immediately notify owners of houses or establishments built on the three-meter easement of the city's sewerways to vacate their property which are slated for demolition.

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Is Metro Manila safe to live in, mayor wants to know

By Nathaniel B. Meliser

THE STORMS, rains and floods have passed but Valenzuela Mayor Rexlon Gatchalian is born on keeping the discussion going on a question: he asked is the wake of recent torrential downpours intact. Is Metro Manila still a safe place to live in?

"When [Tropical Storm] Ondoy [hit us], forecasters said that those strong typhoons would come only once in 50 years. So we thought we [would] be safe for 50 more years. However, just four years after that typhoon, we have the," Gatchalian said in a recent interview, referring to the record rainfall that lashed Metro Manila and nearby provinces earlier this month, leading to heavy flooding.

According to him, he is bent on bringing up the issue before the fellow mayors through the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority especially with climate change threatening to result in harsher weather conditions in the country.

"This is an eye opener that the world is changing. So we have [to engineering knowledge to keep our communities safe? We should talk about this and study it in depth," he said.

While he conceded that there may be no hard and fast answers to his question, Gatchalian said the discussion could lead to ideas which might mitigate the effects of climate change.

"My could ask experts for suggestions on weather groundbreaking our cities or this discussion could start them thinking about ways to do so," he added.

He noted that Filipinos themselves may herself from the discussion as they would be advised on what they should do, including moving their families to higher ground permanently.

"It's the residents who will be at a loss if, say every month, this thing keeps on happening. For example, 40 percent of Valenzuela is under water. We cannot just evacuate all the residents in that area easily," Gatchalian said.

METROBRIEFS

Construction worker killed

A 28-YEAR-OLD construction worker was gunned down and killed by a lone shooter on Saturday night in Quezon City. Cesar Ramboyong, a resident of the Namnam Compound in Barangay North Fairview, was declared dead on arrival at Fairview General Hospital from multiple gunshot wounds in the body. PO2 Anthony Esperanza of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) said that the incident happened around 9 p.m. on Saturday inside the Ramboyong Compound. Witnesses revealed that before the incident, Ramboyong was having pork barbecue from his friend Eunice Pangandaman and was waiting for his order when a man approached him from behind. With no provocation, the man suddenly drew a gun and shot Ramboyong in the back. He was also heard saying, "Pasensiya ka na, pinagbilinan ako [I'm sorry, I was ordered to]." The shooter then fled. Ramboyong was rushed to the hospital but died on arrival. Police are looking into the victim's alleged links to illegal drugs. **Jeannette I. Andrade**

Schools find ways to cope with evacuees

THOSE seeking refuge in classrooms cannot expect widespread flooding to follow. Manila, some schools are still unable to resume regular classes since the monsoon rains hit on August 7. Luz Morales, regional director of the Department of Education National Capital Region, said that the affected students and teachers were coping through take home lessons, shorter class meetings, and assignments conveyed through text messages. "All have returned to regular classes except a few in Malabon, Marikina and Muntinlupa," she said. "They have to resort to alternative delivery modes of teaching because we don't have adequate classrooms as we still have a few evacuees," Morales said. She said some of the affected schools have made arrangements with the evacuees to secure out of the classrooms during the day and remain in one area of the school. At night, the evacuees return to the classrooms. **Dona F. Pazzibugan**

KEEPING TRACK
As Mae Anno rides on appearance in the metropolis, schools push through with their trips that were postponed on account of bad weather. In Quezon City, a worker makes a head count of her students as they visit the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Abalos back at SPD headquarters for a visit

By Nikko Calleja

FORMER Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair Benjamin Abalos was back at the Southern Police District (SPD) headquarters in Taguig City yesterday morning where he was detained for eight months on charges of electoral sabotage.

For the time, he was there to visit his "kabarkada"—a group of children whom he had befriended during his time behind bars and who belong to the families who live near the SPD headquarters.

Abalos was one of the guests who witnessed the children's First Communion at the SPD chapel.

After the Mass which ended at 7:30 a.m., Abalos greeted the children who numbered around 20 in a hearty meal.

It was his first visit to the SPD accompanied after he posted bail of P1 million bail for his provisional liberty last week. Judge Jesus Mupas of the Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 112 had granted his petition for bail after determining that the evidence presented against him was weak.

Lamberto Lavayen, however, believes that they have a strong case against him.

The Comelec filed electoral sabotage charges against Abalos, along with former Presidential Chorus Macapagal-Arroyo, former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr. and former Maguindanao provincial election supervisor Lintang Bedol last year for allegedly conspiring to manipulate the results of the 2007 senatorial elections in North Cotabato and South Cotabato in favor of Arroyo's senatorial candidates.

Abalos told reporters that his eight months in detention at the SPD proved to be fruitful, thanks to his newfound friends, particularly eight children whom he has promised to send to school.

He said he has grown fond of the children because they kept him company most of the time during his detention, especially whenever he were jogging.

"They made him laugh," said Abalos' wife, Consorcio who accompanied him during yesterday's visit.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

'Hundreds of bodies' found in Syria town

DAMASCUS—Hundreds of bodies have been found in a town outside Damascus after a ferocious five-day assault by the Syrian Army, a watchdog said on Sunday, as activists accused government forces of a "massacre."

At least 220 people have been killed during the offensive by government troops in Daraya, a satellite town of some 200,000 people to the southwest of the capital, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The Local Coordination Committees, a network of activists on the ground in Syria, described it as "the regime's massacre" in "peaceful Daraya."

"The criminal regime imposed a blockade and cut off necessary supplies to the town, then subjected it to indiscriminate shelling with heavy weapons and warplanes," it said.

"Afterwards the gangs of killers entered the terrorized and cowed town and committed executions, before dismembering and setting fire to the bodies."

Activists had described the onslaught against Daraya as a new bid to crush "once and for all" the insurgency in the capital after rebel fighters regrouped in the southern suburbs following an Army offensive in the heart of the city last month.

The reports by the activists cannot be independently confirmed because of severe restrictions on media operating in Syria.

At least 310 people were killed nationwide on Saturday, the Observatory said, as the brutal conflict that has convulsed Syria for 17 months showed no signs of abating in the face of deep divisions among world powers.

Combat helicopters and tanks also pounded rebel-held areas of the battered northern city of Aleppo, an AFP journalist and witnesses said, as the Army pressed on with its war against fighters seeking to topple President Bashar Assad.

Militants put out an YouTube a video titled "Massacre at the Abu Ibrahim Adkhami Mosque in Daraya" showing dozens of bodies on the ground.

The video, whose authenticity could not be verified, had a commentary saying: "See military massacre committed by the gangs of the Assad regime in the Abu Ibrahim Adkhami Mosque. More than 150 innocent martyrs fell in a brutal campaign by the criminal gangs against the city."

A WOMAN holds a rifle as residents flee fighting on a truck in Homs on Aug. 26. AFP

State television had said on Saturday that Daraya, a mainly Sunni Muslim town, was being "purified of terrorist remnants."

The Army claimed to have retaken most of Damascus in late July after about two weeks of heavy fighting across the capital's southern belt.

Most rebel Free Syrian Army fighters were forced out into the nearby countryside, but have since resumed hit-and-run operations, according to activists.

Saturday's bloodletting erupted a day after new international envoy Lakhdar Brahimi admitted he was "stunned" at the enormity of the task he faces to try to end the increasingly ferocious conflict, now in its 18th month. AFP

39 killed in blast at Venezuela refinery

A BURNT car at the scene of an explosion at Amuay oil refinery in Punto Fijo, in Venezuela on Aug. 25. REUTERS

PARAGUANA/CARACAS—An explosion tore through Venezuela's biggest refinery on Saturday, killing 39 people, wounding dozens more and halting operations at the facility in the severest accident to hit the Opec nation's oil industry. Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez told Reuters no production units at the Amuay refinery were affected and that there were no plans to halt exports, a sign that the incident will likely have little impact on fuel prices.

Photographs taken shortly after the predawn blast showed wrecked vehicles, flattened fences and glass storage tanks buckling and crumpling as flames lit the night sky. A National Guard building in the town was destroyed and officials said a 10-year-old child was among the dead. A gas leak caused the explosion and many of those killed were National Guard troops who were providing security for the 645,000 barrel-per-day facility, Ramirez said, adding that the fire was under control.

Officials said 39 of the soldiers were confirmed dead along with 15 civilians, while six bodies still had to be identified.

"There was a National Guard barracks near the explosion ... The intensities and ions that came to the epicenter," Ramirez told Reuters in an exclusive telephone interview, adding that production could resume at Amuay within two days at most.

"We intend to boost production at other refineries and look for floating storage near the complex," he said.

The explosion follows repeated accidents and outages during the last decade across installations run by state oil company PDVSA that have limited output and crimped export income.

Amuay has partially shut operations at least twice this year due to a small fire and the failure of a cooling unit.

Those problems have spurred accusations of inept management by the government of President Hugo Chavez, who is running for reelection on Oct. 7. Accusations over the explosion could spill into an already bitter campaign, but is unlikely to overtake larger political concerns such as crime and the economy.

"I want to convey the deepest pain that I've felt in my heart and send cancer I wanted to get to Commander about this tragedy," Chavez said in a phone call to state TV. He declared three days of mourning.

Venezuela has traditionally been a big supplier of fuel to the United States and the Caribbean, but refinery shortcomings have become its commerce that they rarely affect market prices. Reuters

With $1B-verdict, Apple could corner markets

SAN JOSE, California—It was the $1 billion question: When does Apple Inc.'s victory in an epic patent dispute carry its fiercest rival more than $1 billion in damages?

Jurors in Samsung Electronics Co.'s home city of Suwon in Hong Kong delivered Saturday whether a jury's decision that Samsung Electronics Co. ripped off Apple technology would help Apple corner the US smartphone market over dividend rivals, or assume it's one more step in a protracted legal battle over smartphone technology.

Many analysts said the decision could spell danger for competitors who, like Samsung, use Google Inc.'s Android operating system to power their cellphones.

"I see more this is going to put a chilling effect on Android's growth," New York-based tax lawyer Jennifer Brian Marshall said. "It hurts the franchise."

The Silicon Valley jury found that some of Samsung's products illegally copied features and design exclusive to Apple's iPhone and iPad. They found Apple was seriously injured by the infringement, which sold more than 22 million smartphones and tablets that Apple claimed used its technology, including the "bounce-back" feature when a user scrolls to an end image, and the ability to zoom in and with a tap of a finger.

But most other Apple competitors have used the Android system to produce similar technology, which could limit the damages offered in all non-Apple phones, analysts said.

Mizuho Securities, a Mizuho-based analyst at Kenny Investment said that the popular recording and bounce-back functions the jury said Samsung stole from Apple will be hard to replicate.

The companies could opt to pay Apple licensing fees for access to the technology or develop a different technology to create similar features that don't violate the patent—at a cost likely to be passed on to consumers.

Apple lawyers are planning to ask that the two dozen Samsung devices found to have infringed its patents be barred from the US market. Most of those devices are "legacy" products with almost nonexistent new sales in the United States.

A loss to the Android-based market would represent a big hit for Google as well. Google relies on increased purchases for new mobile traffic to its search engine, which in turn generates increased advertising revenue. Android is becoming increasingly more important to Google's bottom line because Apple is phasing out reliance on Google services such as YouTube and mapping in built-in features on the iPhone and iPad. AP

'World's worst' restoration derided

THE JESUS fresco after a botched restoration. REUTERS

MADRID—Scenic art fans have launched a petition to save the "world's worst restoration," a botched, century-old church painting of Christ that has become an international joke.

Cecilia Gimenez, described as being in her 80s, has seen global fame with her horribly botched (engrumpis amongst us would say) attempt to restore an old painting of Christ crowned with thorns, his universally pure raised to heaven.

The "restored" painting looks like a pale monkey's face surrounded by his with misshapen eyes and nose, and a crooked smudge for a mouth, a style some refer to as cubism inspired by Picasso's.

Titled "Ecce Homo" (Behold the Man), the original was painted in oil in 1930 directly onto a volume in the Iglesia del Santuario de Misericordia church in Borja, northeastern Spain.

It was charming, by age as the paint deteriorated over the years.

But the "restored" version has provided grist for an explosion of jokes across the world this week.

Online commentators in Spain lamented the fates of King Juan Carlos's new Defense Minister Mariano Rajoy were there ever a digital version of the restored painting.

More than 5,000 people have now signed an online petition to halt the town's plan to restore the painting to its previous, less glory.

The restoration "reveals a subtle criticism of the Church's creationist theories while questioning a resurgence of new idols," says the petition launched by a user on https://www.change.org, completing the retouched painting in the work of Goya, Munch and Modigliani.

Gimenez herself said she had been panching up the painting for years, with the church's knowledge.

"The priest knew," the elderly lonely dressed lady in question also told public television TVE.

"Everyone who came in could see me painting." Despite the divisive coverage, with some media calling it worst restoration in history, Gimenez said she was an accomplished artist. "I had a four-room exhibition—I sold 40 paintings," Gimenez said.

The church painting was no masterpiece, completed in two hours by a local nun, Elias Garcia Martinez just over a century ago. AFP

After violence, India cracks down on Web, texts

NEW DELHI—The recent panic that led tens of thousands of Indians to flee their homes has largely subsided, leaving in its wake an uneasy government crackdown on the Internet and text messaging services that top officials blame for circulating the baseless rumors that set off the exodus.

Kuldeep Singh Bhatwalia, a spokesperson for India's Home Ministry, called the crackdown essential to preserve law and order. But many of the steps that the government has sought to block are general news sites, such as pages from the British newspaper The Telegraph. And some of the Internet accounts the government sought to frozen are those of journalists, critics or political scientists who appear to have done nothing to further any violence.

Pramesh Prakash, of the Bangalore-based Centre for Internet and Society, said the campaign showed evidence of the government simply flailing.

"I don't see this as politically motivated censorship," Prakash said. "I see this as gross incompetence by the government."

The measures came after a smuggling series of attacks and counterattacks between rival ethnic groups in the southwestern state of Assam that claimed at least 78 lives, destroyed more than 116,000 homes and prompted nearly a half million people to flee to refugee camps. That conflict started in July and worsened in early August.

But there was no immediate measured response by Muslims to the Monday violence, and some northeastern residents were attacked in the city of Pune. Suddenly websites and cell phone text messages started carrying unfounding accounts that led a nationwide panic among Muslims from the northeast.

Government officials initially blamed Pakistan for fomenting ethnic tensions, and officials limited such cell phone user to just five text messages per day and sought to block access to some 310 Web pages and sites.

The crackdown was so severe that the US issued a cautious warning. On Thursday the State Department's deputy spokesperson, Jennifer Nuland, said, "As the Indian government seeks to preserve security, we are urging them also to take into account the importance of freedom of expression in the online world."

On Thursday night, the government banned all but the first five hundred of the country's newly 700 million mobile phone users could send. New York Times News Service

NYC cops wounded bystanders at Empire State

NEW YORK—The executioner's breathtakingly brief: A surveillance video shows a gunman standing on the Empire State Building on Friday pulling a pistol, his pointing it at two police officers, their firing at him and his falling to the sidewalk.

All the yelling and cries of panic surrounded out of camera view, just sounds of where the gunman, Jeffrey T. Johnson, collapsed and died. Nine bystanders were struck, crackling bloody arms or laying on the sidewalks and roads.

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly confirmed Saturday that all nine were wounded by police bullets, either from ricochets or shrapnel from shrapnel. Kelly also confirmed that the shooter, Johnson, never fired another shot after killing a former coworker, thrown fresh-

ers, numerous studies.

We had a witness that said that Johnson lived in the police," Kelly said Saturday. "But the actual cause of the deaths, it appears that that is not the case."

It was the second time in two weeks that police officers fired fusillades in the crowded streets of Midtown Manhattan—20 shots fired between the two incidents—and with it, once again were questions of police protocol in urban settings. In the first incident, as bystanders were struck when officers fired 12 shots at a man with a knife just before Times Square.

The uncontrolled speed at which a shooting plays out is followed by hours of analysis and several guessing and study.

There is no national data on how often bystanders are struck by police bullets; Geoffrey P. Alpert, a criminologist at the University of South Carolina and an expert on police uses of force, said that bystanders are overlooked. "Shooter's happen very often, but it happens."

He added: "The role of chance is that you do not put civilians in the line of fire, but the role of chance is also that you don't let a murderer get away."

Police Academy shootings, now, shots are almost invariably, a study issued on New York's annual firearms discharge reports indicated that officers hit their targets 34 percent of the time.

"It's a tense situation, people are scared and moving," Alpert said. "It's not like the movies where you can shoot the gun out of his hand."

In New York, the Police Department does include such incidents in its firearms discharge report. In 2010, for example, the police shot three bystanders in a shootout with a gunman on the west bottom, one bystander was struck when an officer struggled with a suspect who was trying to take his gun, and the gun fired.

Those encounters are some of the more trying for officers.

"Some of the gritty realities of police work," reads a recent annual report, "is the terrible contradiction that our actor when it becomes necessary to protect life by using deadly physical force." The panel panic, the department's manual, states that officers "must make split-second judgments, doing so will unnecessarily endanger innocent persons." the guide states. New York Times News Service

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Tabuena 12th in Taiwan golf

TAIPEI—Miguel Tabuena fired his best round of 4-under par 68 Sunday to finish 12th as the best Filipino at the Mattersoft's Taiwan Championship won by Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Chi-hsien by three strokes at five- 16-under 272 total. The 127-year-old Tabuena, who turned pro early this year, had earlier rounds of 76-69-75 and a 5-under 283 total. He won $4,025 in the $1-0,000 tournament penning up the richest tie on the Asian Development Tour. Lam Saillers Lizarraga also closed with a 68 and amazed up in a tie for 13th at 284. Jason Baldovi had his 25th at 285 and Jay Bayron ended up at 288. **Asian Development Tour**

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Tigers outlast Bulldogs in OT /A26

Gilas-PH five snares Jones Cup

Tenacious Tenorio fuels Filipinos' brave fightback to nip Americans

GAME two's LA Tenorio (5) and Gary David (20) roll their hearts out as Smart Gilas Pilipinas pulls in front, 74-73, with Tenorio's basket.

By Marong R. Castillo

PASIG—LA Tenorio, the 5-foot-8 Smart Gilas Pilipinas starting point guard, certainly caught everyone with the greatest basketball player who has ever lived.

But at quarterback of the Philippine five against a more formidable foe, Tenorio played like Michael Jordan in tossing the Filipinos to a remarkable conquest of the United States to win the 24th edition of the Jones Cup Sunday.

"The heart never gets tired," Tenorio echoed a line in the fourth quarter after downing 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Filipinos to a heart-stopping 76-75 conquest of the Americans at the packed Taipei Physical Education College gymnasium.

The win gave the Filipinos a tournament best 7-1 card and the country's first title in one of Asia's most popular events since 1998, when the Centennial team handled by Tim Cone triumphed.

"To tell you honestly we are already very tired," Tenorio said after spearheading the fight for the Philippines for the second straight game. "But I reminded myself of what Michael Jordan said.

"Luckily, my shots in the fourth quarter fell in," said Tenorio, who on Saturday against Taiwan-A also scored all of his 11 points in the fourth quarter of a 76-72 victory.

The Filipinos trailed by 14 in the second period and by 7-3 near the end of the third before hitting it all hang out in the payoff frame that discouraged even the finest basketball-playing country in the world.

And that was exactly the motivation used by coach Chot Reyes to fire up his sensory charges, who seem playing together only a month.

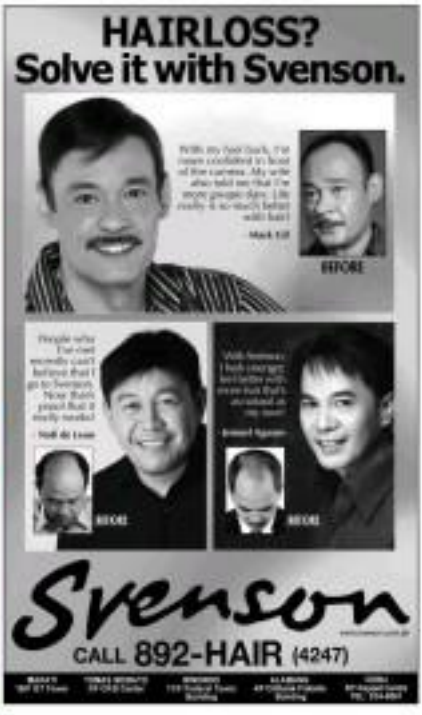
"Before the game, I told them (players): 'Imagine the Philippines playing the USA for a gold in a basketball game,'" Reyes told international media. "To play them for a gold medal, I don't think that will happen again in our lives.

"I asked them to take advantage of the opportunity, and they played their hearts out."

The Philippines actually won its fourth Jones Cup, recording the 1965 edition and the 1981 event with a team led by Manolo Briones and also coached by the great Ron Jacobs.

"I am kind of at a loss for words," American coach Travis McKenzie said. "My guys played their hearts out. The only thing we didn't do was get one more stop in the last 30 seconds.

MORE ON P2



Tigers outlast Bulldogs in OT

Hot Tamaraws thwart Falcons

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas pulled off a miracle escape after a humiliating loss.

Just four days after shredding their worst loss of the season, the Tigers squeezed out a 58-57 overtime decision over National University to claim a share of second place in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday in Araneta Coliseum.

Ajax Mariano scattered 22 points, including the game-winner on an isolation play with 4.4 seconds left, to cap the Tigers' huge comeback from 17 points down, 38-55, in the second half.

"We were humiliated in that loss [to Far Eastern University], I couldn't sleep," said coach Eric Altamirano after his Tigers rebounded from a lopsided setback to the Tamaraws, 87-40, last Thursday.

"Our players showed strength in the endgame. That's the number one thing that I've been teaching them—to have the heart and to keep fighting until the end."

FEU also rode on a blistering windup to rally past Adamson, 74-68, in the first game on both the Tamaraws' and the Tigers' mound bobject solo-leading Antezo (7-1) with 7 points each.

Terrence Romeo came out firing with 27 points in the first three quarters before Ift Garcia and Arvie Bringas came through in the final seconds to lift the Tamaraws from seven points down, 58-65, in the last four minutes. Romeo fin- ished with a 7-of-11 clip from 3-point range.

Aris Dionisio hailed on the Tigers to regulation, knocking in a triple that beat the buzzer to keep overtime, 51-51.

Leading MVP contender Karim Abdul posted his seventh double-double of the season with 13 points and 16 rebounds for the Tigers.

Ift Garcia knocked in a crucial triple that gave FEU a six-at 61 with over three minutes left. Garcia, who missed his first six attempts from beyond the arc, finished with 13 points and six assists.

"It was a slow start but we finished strong," said FEU coach Ariel Hoss.

NATIONAL U's Jack Troy Rosario is fouled on the way to the basket by Kim Lo of Santo Tomas in yesterday's game. ALEXIS CELESTINO

Energen PH U-18 five settles for sixth

THE ENERGEN Philippines Youth team rallied from a 14-point deficit in the final two minutes before losing to Chinese Taipei, 89-85, and settling for sixth place in the United Film Cup Under-18 Championship Sunday in Guangxuang, Shengdu.

The Taiwanese men their 77-63 lead reduced to 83-80 with 34 seconds left but they kept their poise to prevail behind free throws (2/2 points and 13 rebounds) and Lin-Hsien chen (17 points).

Jeric Teng, who scored 19 points, including 3-3 in the thrilling run that fell short as the Philippines ended its campaign at Huanxi Ochan Arena.

Jeric Dygay and Mario Bonleon added 15 points each for the Philippines, which finished a step lower than the fifth-place finish of the PH team in the tournament's last edition in 2010 in Yemen.

The Philippines failed to duplicate its upset of Chinese Taipei in the second round, 68-65.

Although the young Filipinos lead a strong run to the first semifinals, they bowed to powerhouse South Korea, 90-77, in the quarterfinals on Friday night.

Led by Bonleon, the Philippines doubled Lithuania, 86-68, in the consolation round to step in the hunt for fifth on Saturday.

China and Korea, the finalists in the last edition, were battling for the crown at presstime last night.

The Chinese doubled Japan, 100-80, in the semifinals.

Inventory of Payo.

Gilas 5 snares Jones Cup; Tenorio is hero

From page A29

"Give the Philippines credit. They came back and made them," McMorris added. "That's what basketball is all about."

It was clear at the start that the Americans were the favorites. From the capacity crowd, made up mostly of Taiwanese fans waiting for their national team for the next game, were rooting against their Asian neighbor Filipinos.

But the Filipino possessed, muscling away at a 44-37 third-quarter deficit by using the outside shot as a lethal weapon to finally get in the groove and open up the inside somewhat.

A triple by Jeff Chan and a layup by Tenorio to end the third put the Philippines within range, 51-50, before Tenorio hit seven points in a 10-0 run opening the fourth that had the Filipinos surging ahead, 61-50.

By that time, the Filipino crowd-favorite was very up.

But the night belonged to Tenorio, who earlier struggled against bigger guards in the tournament.

The Americans were in the lead for the last time at 73-74 after a Jermaine Beartaxes shot sailed wide. Tenorio got the ball back to the Philippines to stay with a jumper.

Michal Ingme, a trusty shooting guard, then drove into the heart of the Philippine defense only to miss a short jumper off the glass.

Tony Tenorio, who is even smaller than the spectacular James Justice of the US, turned above giants to roam the defensive rebound with eight seconds left that eventually sent Chan to the line to the final 1.9.

Chan missed the first and intentionally missed the second.

'Unsung' stars of Gilas five

By Manny B. Castillo

MANILA—Several players have stepped up for Smart Gilas Philippines at the 26th Asian Cup here.

Marcus Douthit, Gabe Norwood, shooter Jeff Chan and Gary David and JA Tenorio, and the rest of the roster that country, can be called heroes for bringing Philippine basketball back to the Asian region's consciousness.

But they couldn't have functioned the way they did by the games if not for some "unsung" cogs, as the Barrio Boys work be done.

Rogelio "Boyet" Talabot, a utility man who has been in the PBA since 1988; Dennis Santos, a physical thumper; and Asdrubal Tolentino, the sweet sweet CEO who has made sure that there is no language barrier for the Filipino team, all deserve the same praise.

Talabot does the work of five men combined, almost not getting sleep for 31 days as he takes care of everything that each player needs before going into action.

He rises up early in the morning to get the laundered uniforms and then distribute them to each player in their respective rooms before assisting them at breakfast.

After the daily practice, he collects the dirty practice attires, takes them to the laundry before joining the team for lunch.

While the players are getting some rest, Talabot packs up to three full grabs the players' towels and hustles to wherever for the players' substituting drinks for the game, getting help from Asenzo who got home before the team for refueling.

The team knows two hours before practices, and you hour before games, and you hour before that, Talabot inspects all the players' attires. Then he drags several heavy loads of apparel, drinks, ice and what have you, into the bus.

The 30-minute trip to the venue and back to the hotel is a lot of hassle for Talabot to do. When the team arrives at the venue, he would manage players before the game.

But Talabot can't be forgot all about the tiring routine every time the Filipino wins.

The upset win over the 11th-ranked Tamaraws and the Filipinos' championship victory are the unsung rewards Talabot, Santos and Tolentino.

WORLD CHAMP- Kim hoists her trophy

Korean ace tops 10-Ball

SEOUL! Korea's Kim Ga-young claimed the World 10-Ball crown on her second attempt, toppling last year's World No. 1 Chezi Shuang of China, 9-5, in Friday's final at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas.

Kim passed 3-0 and 4-1 leads and never looked back.

Chezi, enjoying the gallery's support, muffled last shot on the 8-ball at 4-6, allowing the Korean heartbreak to draw out the match.

"I really did not practice any more than usual for the event," said Kim. "I was doing a fluttering with the Short TV show in Korea leading up to the World Championship, and so I was really in a happy mood. I think my happiness and positiveness carried over here."

Chezi made the finals by beating compatriot Hu Haoheng, 9-6, while Kim, who settled for second in the 2010 and 2011 World 10-Ball, ousted compatriot Pa Hun Cha, 9-5.

Both Chezi were the best performers among the undefeated Filipinos, reaching the last 16 before bowing to Chinese Taipei's Li Hsun.

Cleuba Cosmo Ani is Amit to the last 24 while Southeast Asian Games double gold medalist Iris Ranola failed to reach the knockout matches in the group stage.

Pia final scratch on the 7-ball in the 14th rack of the semifinals, allowed Chezi to escape with the victory. He eventually finished third.

High hopes for PH Paralympics team

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

PUBLICATIONS) the successful staging of the London 2012 Olympics, another sporting spectacle, the Paralympic Games, takes centers stage Wednesday with 20 sports on tap in the British capital.

Three through Charter the media hype and limelight of the regular Olympic Games, I consider the Paralympics (organized by Sir Ludwig Guttman in London in 1948 for Britons with disabilities and known then as the International Wheelchair Games) and its competitors as the true Olympians.

This is because I find these athletes with disabilities heroic for pushing themselves in the field of human performance despite their handicaps. Those PWDs train and prepare for international competitions just as hard and arduously as its normal and able-bodied athletes to their match for glory.

As one avid follower of the Paralympics says: "It moved in the grit and exceptional ability of these athletes with disabilities. I've gone to many of these Paralympic Games, and I've found, again and again, that every spectator says the true athletes for the sportsman they truly are. The focus on their disability just seems very quickly."

In this regard, I welcome wholeheartedly

I thank Mr. Bill Uitti, Head by youthful former Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez of Leyte. The billion-to-establish a Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) in every province, city and municipality in the Philippines. The PDAO will be a shadow of a doubt, will benefit millions of Filipinos with disabilities.

Said Romualdez: "There is no office that completely handles the affairs of persons with disabilities. Under existing laws, disabled persons are provided services, but these do not go far enough."

Over the years and, for the sake of fairness and equality, I have taken the outright for the PWDs who need a persistence compensation law similar to republic law 9006, which grants cash rewards and other benefits to medal winners in the Olympics, Asian and Southeast Asian Games. To my mind, these medal-winning athletes with disabilities should be amply rewarded.

* * *

Speaking of rewards, this corner is wishing all the best for Paralympic runner Roger Tapia and the rest of the members of the Philippine Sports Commission's Para Extreme.

Roger, too, as the Philippine Sports Commissioner, the Ilonos Norte provincial government and Jose Rizal University, where Tapia is studying, for their financial support.

"I'm very happy with how the preparation is helping me," said Tapia in a statement. "I'm also thankful to the PSC, my school and my other benefactors for providing me with the needed financial assistance which will certainly get a long way."

Tapia will early next area. Tapia also has difficulty speaking, which initially prevented him from seeking medical treatment for those handicaps did not stop him from pursuing his passion for sports.

Aside from Tapia, the Philippine Open- lane April, he clocked 33.56 seconds in the 200 meters to qualify for the London 2012 Paralympics T-46 classification event for one-armed amputees. Tapia is leaving for London together with coach Ariel Estrada.

Champs vying in Pasay 'Big Event' derby today

TOP cockers from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao gamefowl Pasay City Cockpit today for the start of the much-awaited Pasay Mayoralty Big Event 8-Stag Derby.

Supported by Sagupaan Consultancy Services Inc. and hosted by cockfight "idol" Patrick Antonio, Eric delos Reyes and Sanchez Glines, the derby features champion and guaranteed prize expected to top P5-million.

Participants from Luzon enjoys a slight edge, having competed in events like it Manila stag derbies.

Henry Ye of Quezon province topped the Aldub 5-Stag Derby two months ago, while Lito Reyes of Laguna emerged as winner and runner-up, respectively, in the Luzon Pilipinas 8-Stag Derby last September.

But the biggest threat will come from the Mindanao group, headed by 2011 Bakbakan champion Augusto del Sol Sons tandem Rong Pilapil, Bebot Uy and Dot Du of Davao, Cagayan de Oro/Iligan Wow Umalin and Gov. John Sarmiento.

All qualifiers will advance to the 5-stag finals on Friday.

Cebu-based schools actually occupied the Top 5 spots in the elementary division with USC just ahead of Bantik National High School and Cebu Institute of Technology University.

The event that serves as a qualification for Batang Pinoy, the nation's biggest multi-sport meet for youth athletes in the National Finals opened Friday with 30,000 people, including 7,000 athletes from 300 schools, in attendance.

Among the early winners were Zapanta Elementary School (elementary division) and Colegio Dela Inmaculada Concepcion Cebu (secondary division) which topped the three-game contest.

Also grabbing awards were Pio del Pilar Elementary School, which was adjudged the Most Disciplined and also got the Loudest Cheer awards in elementary division.

Abellana National School took three crowns by winning the Most Disciplined, Loudest Cheer, and Best in Salute categories.

Iloilo NHS, USC pace Milo Little Olympics

ILOILO National High School and University of San Carlos made their presence felt in athletics Friday to set the early pace to the 2012 Milo Little Olympics Visayas eliminations at Cebu Sports Complex.

Determined to dislodge University of Cebu at the top of the secondary division, ILOILO contingent in event with a strong showing on Day 1 to take the lead over UC and third-running Ateneo de Cebu.

Meanwhile, the football tournament has been promoted into an 11-a-side tournament.

Other events lined up are basketball, chess, gymnastics, lawn tennis, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball, aquatics are scheduled.

The MCR eliminations is set on Aug. 31 to Sept. 2 and Sept. 8 and 9, while the Mindanao elimination are slated on Sept. 7 to 9.

Gold@Yahoo

Patrimonio outlasts Rudas for title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CLARICE Patrimonio underscored her status as the country's No. 1 player by routing Jaeck Maybel Rudas, 6-1, 6-4, convincingly to capture the ladies' singles title in the Cliveden Phelps Open tennis championships presented by Pilipinas Shintohap Express Pres Pachika at the Cliveden Sports Center in Sucat, Parañaque.

The 20-year-old Patrimonio used her vast experience to down Rudas, who usually rank the first set and led 4-2 in the second set, before the daughter of 1984 great Alvin ruled her game to win the next four games and force a deciding set.

Patrimonio, a member of the talented team that won a bronze medal in the Southeast Asian Games last year, chased every shot by the second-seeded Rudas to the third set. She gained a vital break in the ninth game.

"It was a rough win," said the other half of the Patrimonio sisters. "(But Jaeck) was hard but in the end I was able to get the breaks I needed."

Clarice, whose sister Christine rumbled in the semifinals, prevailed in close to four hours over Rudas, 17, who belongs to the Tennis Academy of the Philippines and also included Anne-Patricia Isor, FE Zenith's Mary Joyce and Mirriam Lim Jr.

It was actually a golden double for Patrimonio in the tournament sponsored by Shintoist Weightlifting Express Pres Pachika and Strong Solid Insurance with Doubles in store for both.

Clarice and Aileen Regan rolled over Christine Patrimonio and Rudas, 6-1, 6-4 win over Berlin and Malita Jar Tangcoco.

Meanwhile, former Davis Cup teammates Patrick John Tierra and Elbert Amante were still locked in battle for the men's singles title at presstime.

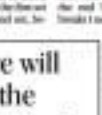
Tierra was also gunning for a double after teaming up with Johnny Arrillo in trouncing Francis Casey Alcantara and Pablo Oliveros, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2, for the men's doubles championship.

The men's collegiate title went to National University-A, which swept Far Eastern University-A, 3-0.

PATRIMONIO: I got the breaks I needed.

Where will all the athletes go?

THE BASKETBALL tournaments is just the only sport doing big, a following in the UAAP.



ONE GAME AT A TIME

The PBC had season review at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex was rocking Sunday morning with almost a thousand students, families and friends in the ranks gathering for their schools.

The finish's entertainment was on top with KL and Ateneo in a dogfight for the top spot.

The six other schools were playing out their numbers for final appearance in the three other teams. Ang Callaway, who helps coach the 10 team, explains that the single round robin format allows the top, schools to train to gain the first finish five and a chance to host advantage. No wonder the enthusiastic fieldings and fingers were showing in each of the five court polls.

Enthusiasm is one of those sports always mentioned when talk about discipline when Filipinos could excel initially. Since the "Go to School" campaign for school players, fundamentals make the speed and natural athletic showcase at Filipino. And it was done in the spirited competition that has all UAAP schools represented. Filipinos can play this game.

The game is in a constant state of flux and the switch from offense to defense happens quickly. There's power to unleash and control with either situation from the back and hands but the emphasis seems to be on more versatile players. Deep shots can't leave off an opponent or an up high like that because the fulcrum for lethal crushes.

From Filer, a management engineering junior who plays for Ateneo, relates that many of the players are former varsity players from childhood or early now years. "I started playing in first year high school," Filer says. "And I liked it. "Getting excellent coverage—basic the famous Ateneo's dillings and Callaway's as well. ...helped beat some the rewards and have intense tournaments were. His team is one of the contenders in their tournaments with opponents coming from rival La Salle and UE.

Like most student athletes, Filer is cognizant of the importance of low studies and follows the study hall time required of athletes in her school. Her course is not a walk in the park and she knows the line to crack the books while she honor her basketball skills.

Sports like badminton, baseball, swimming, tennis and others seem to have no problems when they are played via at the club and school levels. As the UAAP basketball season progresses, the question of athletes hitting our school chests and tools of encouragement in playing schoolmates, one can't help but wonder where all the talent will go once school days are over.

The coaches have no doubts identified those who can play on collegiate level for the SEA Games and other international competitions. But not all will make the national team. As time though, they will have a piece of their mind for the rest of their lives. Basketball can be played anywhere, anything by men when players they mumble that the spirit is willing but the knees are unresponsive.

This is what school sports does consistently well despite the persistent problems of budgeting and facilities, providing a space for life for athletes and students as well.

BY TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

Suns scorch Lady Eagles

Nail first victory; Navy also picks up maiden win

By Jasmine W. Payo

CAGAYAN Valley recovered from three back-to-back setbacks with a straight-set triumph over Arenas, 28-19, 27-25, 28-14, to tie its victims for third place in the Shakey's V-League Open yesterday at Silverio Aquatics Stadium.

Bunny Rose Tabino fired 15 hits and Sandra delos Santos and Thai misdemeanant Kimberly Pamplona each to lead the Rising Suns to their second victory to four games.

In the second match, Philippine Navy picked up its first win by downing Far Eastern University in a grueling five-setter, 18-25, 21-25, 25-23, 25-23, 16-14.

Mayi Dualiyan paced the Lady Sailors with 26 points, including 11 spikes and four blocks, while Kirsh Bonito had 15 markers.

The Rising Suns came back strong after dropping a pair of five-setters against early leaders Standard Insurance and defending champion Philippine Army.

"We just had no conversations in our two losses, but we stayed focused this time," said Tabino.

The Rising Suns outhauled 43 kills, 10 more than the Lady Eagles, as Joy Cases, Ilona Arellano and Hillaine Cuizon let 12 points to pace the Lady Eagles, who blew a 20-23 lead as the Rising Suns rallied by scoring four of the next five points to take the second frame, 27-25.

SAMONG delos Santos of Cagayan puts one in against Ateneo defenders Marge Tejada and Angeline Marie Gervacio during Sunday's match at Rizal Aquatics Stadium.

That impact batsella Chenweiller also stepped up.

The Rising Suns then came out in the third set to roll control, taking a 16-14 lead on the way to an easy victory.

FEU outscored the only setting squad in four games.

2 'friendlies' added to Azkals tough sked

By Cedelf P. Tupas

TWO more friendly matches against formidable international sides have been confirmed for the Philippine football team preparing for the AFF Suzuki Cup in Thailand.

The Azkals, who already have six matches lined up in September, will have two more tough assignments in the next two months, facing Brunei on Oct. 16 and Singapore on Nov. 15 before they plunge into action in the Suzuki Cup in Bangkok from Nov. 24 to 11.

Philippine Football Federation president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta said Brunei has agreed to host the October friendly which comes after a weekend training camp in Shenzen, Bahrain.

Though nothing more than FIFA-ranking points are at stake, the Azkals are still out to settle a score against Kuwait's Al-Arabi, who bested them out of World Cup qualifying.

The Azkals lost 1-3 on aggregate, yielding 0-1 in Kuwait and 1-2 in the return leg in Manila in July last year.

The Azkals, who are training off a two-week training camp in Chicago, will also host Bahrain on Oct. 12.

The match against Singapore on Nov. 15 will be staged in Cebu, marking the first time the Queen City of the South hosts an Azkals match.

It will actually be the second meeting between Singapore and the Philippines, which will also square off in a friendly in Singapore on Sept. 7.

The Azkals have five more matches in September, beginning with a duel with Cambodia on Sept. 3 in Phnom Penh and a showdown with Laos on Sept. 10 in Vientiane.

Veteran Phil and Aaron Younghusband are expected to be back in the 18 side after missing training camp in Chicago because of their club commitments.

Phil, the top scorer of the AFC Challenge Cup last March, has reiterated his commitment to the national side.

"I'm very committed, I start training in a few days," said Phil, after scoring a hat trick for his squad in a 5-1 win over a team humored by elder brother Jason in a charity match Saturday night at the University of Makati field.

GM Antonio powers QC team to KL rapid crown

KUALA LUMPUR—Grandmaster Torquito "Jerry" Antonio Jr. powered team Quezon National Master Efren Bagamasbad to help the country's top chess power Quezon City to the title in the 32nd Asian Rapid Open team championship at Global Mid Valley Hotel.

Antonio's squad actually bowed to Bagamasbad's Bitchot (Philippines) team, 1.5-2.5, in the ninth and final round but still topped the title following a crucial 3-1 win over Team Association of Indian Banks in the penultimate.

Antonio, who topped the 9th ICB Halo Arthur Tan Chess Festival Grand Rapid 2012 and Elite Open Championships the previous week, also outplayed India's Sharma Hemant in that round as QC built a safe buffer going into its match with Makati.

Tenth-seeded Quezon City posted seven wins, one draw and one loss for 31 match points in the 66-team tournament dominated by Philippine squads, which finished 1-2 (6-4-0).

Backing up Antonio in the QC squad were GM Darwin Laylo, Ronp Langa and Marlon Guinamatxo.

Tagaytay City finished second after beating Makati and the GM Nelson Mariano-led Clendaldy Shark Troupe on third spot after a defensive. All three teams had 14 match points.

Tagaytay of Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino was made up of final dodgers, Rhobel Legaspi, NM Al Rivan Canada and Richmond Cadua.

Trailing City, led by GMs John Paul Gomez and Richard Bitoon, settled for a share of fifth to eighth places with Mountblad, IM Paul Genn Abad and Dave Tapia.

SPI Joey Antonio (left) celebrates the team's victory with teammates SPI Darwin Laylo, Rengr Langa and Marlon Guinamatxo.

Unfancied bets share Shell Visayas chess tilt

NOEL Vincent Cruzeros and Arthur Espinosa got off to solid starts to share the lead in the boys' junior division while stevie Medalla and Adelaide Lim forged a tie in the girls' side of the 2012 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship Visayas leg at SM Cebu Event Center in Cebu City last Saturday.

Cruzeros, ranked way below in the 96-player field in the 20-and-under class, matched second seed Arbi Mendoza and No. 4 Yves Hel, respectively, to stay perfect with five points in the nine-round Swiss system tournament.

Espinosa, of MacArthur National High, matched time energy with victories over No. 10 Philjo Miguel A. Ralph Orot, Raymond Mallana, Shell Circle and Pared Paulos.

Mendoza posted four points to a tie with 20 others as they prepared to take board for a berth in next month's national finals.

Medalla of University of San Carlos, and No. 11 Lim of University of St. La Salle, swept their first four matches to pace the juniors' girls category.

Alta Vista's Canoy-Kawakami rules Bangkok leg

BANGKOK—Alta Vista's Dennis Canoy and Masahiro Kawakami fired an eight-under par 63 in the final round to crown themselves the overall champions in the international leg of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour here on Saturday.

With an average handicap of 6.5, Canoy and Kawakami rallied from three shots back after the first round to overtake The Vineyard's eight-under score with eight birdies, five of them in the back nine in the incredible heroes.

They had a 73 the previous day at the Lam Luk Ka Country Club course.

With a 137 total, Canoy and Kawakami outdueled first-round leaders Adil Bate and Norlevie Baldoza of Bonafe Signature for the top prize.

Bate and Baldoza numbered for a 69 and settled for the Division 1 trophy.

Canoy and Baldoza finished with a 139 total, beating the Second Point tandem of Raul Monteville Alan Mogas, who matched the 66 of the overnight overall winners to secure runner-up honors in the tournament organized by Sta. Lucia Realty for members of clubs operating nodes in Isaacson.

Mendeling del Rosario and Martha Fernando of Eagle Ridge added a 68 to an 81 to win Division 3 by four strokes, while Magdalena Pilleria and Fernando Ugdoniano delivered the first win for Rancho Palos Verdes this season with an even bigger comeback—a 71 at Eagle Ridge to edge 85—to take Division 4.

Lay Yong Swo and Lee Chung Kyu of Eagle Ridge took a one-shot win over Marnie and Sonia Mendoza with a closing 76 for 148 to Division 2. The Mendozas carded a 68 for a 148 total.

Winners received their trophies and prizes from Integrated Golden, president and CEO of Sta. Lucia Realty.

SPORTS

Altas, Heavy Bombers try to boost Final 4 bids

By Cedelf P. Tupas

PERPETUAL Help and Jose Rizal U try to keep in step with second-running San Sebastian when they battle separate rivals today in the fifth NCAA men's basketball tournament at Filoil Flying V Arena.

The Altas (7-2) seek a season sweep of the Lemon Knights (5-3) in the 4 p.m. clash that could potentially determine the Final four fortunes of both teams.

The Bombers (7-2) battle the Olympia Candoli (9-6) at 6 p.m. in a showdown of teams coming off losses.

Perpetual Help and JRU hope to forge a three-team logjam at second with San Sebastian.

The Altas hope to keep the momentum of their 78-74 win over the St. Benilde Blazers last Monday against the Knights, who have been haunted by the return of center Raymond Almazan.

The 6-foot-7 Almazan played his first game after a seven-match absence, finishing with four points and six boards in a 72-60 victory over Magnus last Thursday.

"Hopefully, it's the start of something big for us," said Lemon coach Louie Alas. "Raymond gives us additional ceiling and depth in the front court. He can play 30 to 35 minutes and make a lot of impact."

Almazan's return to the lineup is just one of the many challenges facing coach Aric del Rosario in signal, which also has to deal with the resurgent Jun Cortes, who had 19 points and 13 boards against the Cardinals.

The Altas' 69-68 victory over Letran served as a launching pad for what has been a fine campaign for Perpetual Help this season. The Knights, though, are looking to flip the script.

"It will be a very good matchup because we are trying to bounce back against them," said Alas. "Our loss against them started our losing streak. Beating them will be a tall order but it can be done."

Letran gunner Kevin Mar has slowed down after a torrid start, averaging 6.5 points in the last two games, after posting 21 points in outing in the first nine outings.

The Bombers are out to rebound from an 82-83 loss to the Arellano Chiefs last Monday. But the Cardinals are also looking to turn their fortunes around after a lethargic showing against the Knights last Thursday.

LETRAN is hoping to improve its campaign with the return of center Raymond Almazan (left).

Federer starts drive for 6th US Open title

NEW YORK—World number one Roger Federer and Victoria Azarenka, Olympic men's champion Andy Murray and defending women's champion Samantha Stosur are among the tennis stars playing on Monday at the US Open.

Three-time US Open champion Kim Clijsters, playing in the final event of her career, and Russian beauty Maria Sharapova, who completed a career Grand Slam by winning the French Open in June, are also in action on day one.

The year's final Grand Slam tournament begins on the Flushing Meadows hard courts with 50 matches, with the men's first round spread across the first three days and the women's opening round set to be completed in two days.

Top seed Federer, the winner in 2004 to 2008, has the last night match as Arthur Ashe Stadium opener American Donald Young while Stosur, seeded seventh, begins her title defense to the first match on Arthur Ashe Stadium when she faces Croatian Petra Martic.

British third seed Andy Murray fresh off an Olympic gold medal after beating Federer in the London final at Wimbledon, will play American Mardy Fish in the first men's match on Arthur Ashe.

Australia is fourth on Louis Armstrong Stadium against Russia's Alexandra Dulgheru while Sharapova and Clijsters claim the other spots at Arthur Ashe.

Clijsters, seeded 23rd, opens the night session Monday against American Victoria Duval while third seeded Sharapova plays Melinda Czink in the last match of the afternoon session.

AFP

Garcia seizes Barclays lead

SWING Garcia watches his tee shot on the 13th hole.

FARMINGDALE, New York—Sergio Garcia is on track for consecutive victories after the Spaniard took the outright lead at the Barclays tournament on Saturday, while Tiger Woods faltered slightly but remained inside the top 10.

Garcia, who won the Wyndham Championship on Monday, fired a two-under par 69 to claim an 11-under 202 total, one shot ahead of Bubba Watson and Hunter Mahan.

American Nick Watney, who had a three-shot lead in the middle of the third round, ended up with a 71 to hold second on eight-under 203.

Fellow American Kevin Stadler was third at 206 after firing a blistering 65, easily the round of the day.

Woods, who sat second to the world number one spot with a victory, battled putting woes to post a 72, leaving him six off the pace at 209 in a tie for 30th. He three-putted four separate greens for the first time in his PGA tour career after being unable to come to terms with the changing speed.

"I've never seen greens change like this, from what they were yesterday to today," Woods said. "It's unbelievable how slippery they were.

"You put the putter down behind the golf ball and it was slipping on the grass. It's unbelievable how fast they got."

The 14-time major winner lamented the weather-induced conditions.

"I played the round I needed to play, unfortunately I didn't putt the way I needed to putt," he said. "If you take the four three-putts away I'm right there in the ball game."

Garcia trailed three birdies for so many bogeys over his opening 18 holes before taking the advantage with birdies on the 13th and 15th holes just as Whitney faltered.

"The greens are just probably some of the fastest greens I've ever played," Garcia said. "Usually when you are putting on fast greens, you have an idea where the ball is going to stop. And today, you didn't.

"You thought the ball was going to stop two feet behind the hole, and it came out. It was terrible. It was very close."

Watney, playing with Garcia in the final group, had four birdies and just one bogey in his opening 18 holes to be three shots before hitting the skids.

Bogeys on 11, 12 and 13 handed the momentum back to Garcia and although Watney rolled in a 35-foot birdie on the 17th, the only birdie on the tough par-three all day he conceded that one with another bogey on the last hole.

Reuters

New Zealand teen eyes LPGA history

KOHCHEON—New Zealand teenager Lydia Ko seized a one-stroke lead in the Canadian Women's Open on Saturday setting her sights on becoming the youngest winner in LPGA Tour history.

Ko, 15, fired an even-par 72 on the Pinnacle Golf Club layout for an eight-under total of 208.

She was one stroke in front of a quartet of players: American Stacy Lewis and South Korean Ryu Hee, Inbee Park and Chella Choi.

"It's good to stay at the top of the leaderboard, but my first goal was to make the cut and hopefully top 10 or something," Ko said. "But to be up there is just an honor, especially playing against the world's best.

"When your idols don't lead at an LPGA event all the time. Like I said, I'm very surprised. But I've been playing really good golf and I've been mentally confident with my game."

Choi, who shared the overnight lead with Ko, carded a 73. Lewis climbed up the leaderboard with a 66, Mrs. Park posted a 69 and Park carded a 70.

Ko was two further strokes back on Sydnee Michaels (68) and Moira Dunn (72) on 211.

The Philippines' Jennifer Rosales is 12 off the pace at 220 (77-70-73).

"I heard she was a really good player and some of those young amateurs can play golf," Park said. "It's not a big surprise, but I would be nervous if I was her—as we'll see tomorrow."

The South Korean hero Ko could also become the fifth amateur to win an LPGA title and the first since JoAnne Carner in the 1969 Burdine's Invitational.

AFP

KO Confident

PH pins Asian karting bid on Rivera siblings, Reyes

BAGUIO—Mila and Emiliano Rivera will spearhead the Philippines bid in the third round of the 2012 Asian Karting Open Championship set Aug. 31 to Sept. 2 at Gamotsu racetrack in Gotha.

Mila reaped an impressive tally from the lastleaf of the 20-man field to capture the pro-novice Formula 125 Open Asia, while her younger brother Emiliano emerged champion in the Formula 125 Open Junior division during the previous leg.

Frances Reyes and CJ Toni still also hope to improve on their last showing.

Reyes, who cannot up behind Mila while Toni placed fifth.

Other Filipino racers are Celso Jose Calderon and Ryan Raymond Cadula who will vie in the Formula Open 125 Juniors.

Calderon, who topped the Pro-Final heat, was scratched in the previous leg while Cadula wound up fourth to move to second overall with 45 points behind Macau consolidation Dharma Mangkubulan (71) of Indonesia.

Foreign foes from powerhouse Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong will arrive tomorrow.

Gabriel Arevalo of Indonesia, who ended up fourth in the last race, hoped to climb up his hold on the top spot in the Formula Open 125 Senior class where he has 46 points. Steve Silva, Contributor

Who will take Armstrong's titles?

PARIS—With Lance Armstrong stripped of his seven Tour de France titles for doping, simple logic might suggest that his runners-up from 1999 to 2005 would just inherit them, right?

Not so fast.

The doping-shared sport of cycling has a logic all its own, and nearly all of the Texan's second-place finishers had their own run-ins with cases, admissions or suspicions of almost drug use or cheating at one point or another.

It makes for no easy choices for cycling's authorities and historians.

The International Cycling Union, UCI, has final control on the record books, but has declined to comment until it learns of the US Anti-Doping Agency's reasons for stripping Armstrong of his Tour titles on Friday. Time organizers aren't even sure who, deferring to the UCI and USADA in a less-resistant statement.

Armstrong was back on a bike in Aspen, Colorado, beaten by 58-year-old Kevin Costner in the Power of Four, a grueling 58-kilometer mountain bike race.

Armstrong finished nearly five minutes behind the hard-charging kid.

"Nobody needs to cry for me. I'm going to be great," Armstrong said.

As for what lies ahead, Armstrong wasn't thinking that far—only toward lunch.

"Armstrong cheated for a few minutes before stopping. 'OK, I'm going to go eat a cheeseburger.'"

AP

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Jollibee owner ventures into property dev't

Tan Caktiong teams up with Sia family of 'Mang Inasal' fame

By Doris C. Dumlao

FASTFOOD chain magnate Tony Tan Caktiong and entrepreneur Edgar "Injap" Sia II have teamed up on the property development business that they envision to be one of the country's biggest property developers by 2020.

The two have formed a joint venture firm, DoubleDragon Properties Corp., to venture into commercial, residential and even farm into public-private partnership (PPP) projects. Sia, the company's chair and chief executive officer, said the upstart property company was discussing to debut on the Philippine Stock Exchange "when the right time comes."

DoubleDragon was previously known as Injap Land Corp., which started in 2009 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Sia's holding company Injap Investments Inc. Recently, Tan Caktiong's Honey Star Holdings acquired 50 percent of the

(COLUMN B2)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz:** SCTEx rebidding looms /B3

■ **DOE bidding out hydro site contracts in Q4** /B2-1

■ **Filipinos seen staying in PH as economy grows** /B4-4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Aug. 24, 2012

42.165

STOCK MARKET

Aug. 24, 2012

59.49

Markets closed today

LOCAL sentiment is seen remaining cautious and vulnerable to offshore developments this week but local rallies are seen possible on month-end window dressing.

Last week, the main share Philippine Stock Exchange index declined by 83.5 points or 1.23 percent to end on Friday at 6,140.26. There were only two days of trading for the week.

Local financial markets are closed today on the national holiday for "Ninoy Day."

"The market will likely trade index for this week as it continues to digest last week's negative developments," said PNB Securities deputy chief Manny Lubiano. "There may be technical rallies but the general direction will be sideways in the short term."

Banco de Oro Unibank strategist Jonathan Ravelas said the PSEi would likely range between 6,058 and 6,220 this week.

Doris C. Dumlao

Gov't eyes further extension of LRT 1

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PLANS are being drawn up to extend the Light Rail Transit (LRT) line further south until Dasmariñas, Cavite, as the government tries to keep up with mass transit requirements in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas II said a feasibility study on the project was set to be started this year to see whether it would make sense to have another station in Dasmariñas instead of ending the LRT line in Imus, Cavite.

"There are a lot of people that go all the way to Dasmariñas, so that's being studied," he said.

He said plans for Dasmariñas would not interfere with the current bidding for the LRT extension from Baclaran to Pasay, to boot.

The LRT line 1 extension project, which would cost P68 billion to be split between the government and the private sector, is the most expensive infrastructure project in the Aquino administration's pipeline.

"We're studying this (Dasmariñas extension) because we don't want to waste time. If we approve the project, then we can easily add it on to the Imus extension," Roxas said.

He said the government would not wait for the Imus extension to be completed before deciding on the Dasmariñas project. He said it would be harder to build all the way to Dasmariñas after the Imus extension has been completed.

Extending the 30-year-old LRT line 1, which runs all the way to Roosevelt, Que-

(CONT'D B2)

Firms strive to meet PSE rule

By Doris C. Dumlao

SOME of the 27 listed companies facing trading suspension...especially those that are part of closely watched conglomerates like San Miguel and Ayala—are striving to meet the minimum public float of 10 percent required for continued listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"We will do our best to comply. If not, we will delist," San Miguel Corp. president Ramon Ang said in a text message to the Inquirer, referring to SMC subsidiaries San Miguel Brewery, San Miguel Pure Foods Co. and San Miguel Properties.

The three units are among the 27 companies that face trading suspension on the first trading day of 2013 if they are unable to increase their public float. In at least 10 percent. San Miguel Pure Foods has a public float of 8.06 percent while San Miguel Brewery and San Miguel Properties have 6.42 percent and 8.06 percent, respectively.

Ayala-led Integrated Microelectronics, which has a public float of 9.71 percent, sees no problem hitting the required level of before deadline. "We believe we will meet the SEC's minimum public ownership," said a message relayed by IMI chief finance officer Jerome Tan.

The companies led by the group of former Marcos trade minister Roberto S. Ongpin will also submit management declarations, said Eric Recto, who is part of the group.

Jollibee owner

From page B1

company thus boosting its capital venture and remained as such.

"I enjoy the journey of now participating and assembling Double Dragon and earning a big dream for the company. It's just like how it was eight years ago when Tony Tan and I were building and," he said in an e-mail interview with the Inquirer.

Sia—who sold a 74 percent interest in the Mang Inasal grilled chicken chain to Tan Caktiong led Jollibee Foods Corp. in 2010—said a key reason luring to Double-Dragon would be a way to share the "company of the future" to other prospective stock investors.

Property development has always been a dream business for him, which was why he went into price property development in 2009, he said. For now Double-Dragon's projects and landholdings are in Iloilo and Bohol. "But we also intend to venture anywhere in the Philippines as the opportunity arises, be it commercial and vertical projects, both for commercial and residential developments, including retail commercial spaces and office spaces except resident or hotel projects," he said.

Sia's group has interests in residential and hotel projects under a separate company called Hotel of Asia Inc., formed in 2010 in a partnership among Japan Investment Inc., Oishi Limitless Marketing Corp. and Summit Development Corp.

Here prior to the entry of Tan Caktiong's group as partner, Japs Land completed and fully sold the People's condominium project, the first condominium in Iloilo City within its first three years of operations. This year, Double Dragon is set to complete its first horizontal project, the 111-unit Mini Homes Village in Mandurriao, Iloilo City. "Both projects gave us the experience and boost the egos of property development and the experience will greatly equip us in our future larger projects," Sia said.

With the real estate industry in the Philippines at its peak and already dominated by the big players, Sia said the upstart Double-Dragon intended to initially seek on pocket developments to accumulate more experience while leaning for new opportunities that might come along the way. "We do intend to position Double-Dragon ahead for the next cycle of a property development boom in the coming years," Sia said.

While Sia and his siblings handle the management and provide the directions for Double Dragon, he said Tan Caktiong and his siblings would "bring in the wisdom and support given their [more than] 30 years of experience in successfully managing and developing Jollibee." He said another advantage was that the Jollibee Group owned several food brands and could create synergy in Double-Dragon development projects.

Initial investments in Double-Dragon is estimated at P600 million.

Sia said the name Double-Dragon came about as he, Tan, and Tan Caktiong, 56, were both born in the Lunar Year of the Dragon. "And coincidentally, the Double-Dragon deal was also finalized this year, also a year of the Dragon. We are also both Capricorns. I and Tito Tony are also both born in the month of January. My birthday and my son are also born in the year of the Dragon," he said.

SCTEx rebidding looms

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

THE GROUP of Manuel V. Pangilinan may have committed to another revision in the manner for the operation and management of the country's largest expressway, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), but this can be all for naught as the Department of Finance is keen on recommending a rebidding of the contract.

Government sources told the DOF would like to rebid the contract with the Metro Pacific group—which originally won the auction shortly before the PNoy administration took over—to unlock more revenue for the government's share and the proponents believed this could also optimize data returned to SCTEx. However, it's now up to the Office of the President on whether to simply overhaul the contract for the second time or scrap it and call for a rebidding. MPIP's group also has the option of going to court but it was not likely to risk getting in relationship with the government sources.

If the government takes the latter route, it opens up the opportunity for the Ayalas—the San Miguel group of Ramon S. Ang—to take a second stab at SCTEx. To recall, MVP's group **as Manila North Tollways Corp.** was considered the sole eligible bidder for SCTEx in 2010 **after rival Metrolink Tollway Management** (a joint venture between San Miguel Corp. and **San Tollways Corp.) was declared short of the** technical requirements.

But rebid or rebidding of SCTEx may be good for San Miguel, the PNoy regime's scrutiny of many infrastructure building contracts prior to its term may also affect SMC. For instance, the DOF **has also sent SMC's Metro Railway Tran**sit-7 project (from Edsa-Quezon Ave. to Bulacan Capitol) to the dressing **boards.** *Doris C. Dumlao*

@lucaPH7

LEGENDS being an enabler of the digital age, MVP had long resisted getting into the social networking space even as he acknowledged the huge implications of the new medium on the **telecom empire that he built.** So the past, he told bloggers he was averse to the microblogging platform Twitter because he didn't want to be "cyber bullied" like tsugunist Shawn Cone**to, who got a lot of bedding from fans of Pinky** Pascual after the actor's controversial break-up with KC Concepcion. (Tsuds also for his million for probably known because he regularly watches TV5's THE inquirer shows his talk show "Juicy" every evening before going to bed.)

But this time around, MVP has fully embraced the digital superhighway that Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. itself operates and respectfully made his Twitter debut last Friday at the Internet and Mobile Marketing Association of the Philippines (IMMAP) meeting where he delivered a speech about the digital age. After delivering a number of pick-up lines that made him a trending topic early Friday, he ended with "Hey, I just met you and this is crazy but here's my Twitter. Follow me, maybe? @manuelVP"

It turned out that this Twitter handle has long been taken for him, meaning the time that the "hunky" is ready to load the Twitter app into his iPhone 4S and engage netizens. And yes, his stallion say he's fully aware of the "risks."

By the way it's this noted railroading boom that makes the proposed Globe 7 acquisition eyed for MVP PLDT does not want to unnecessarily **incorporate of the "digital highway" but wants to** deliver content as well. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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Gov't eyes

From page B1

ton City, would benefit the millions of Cavite residents who commute to work around Metro Manila daily.

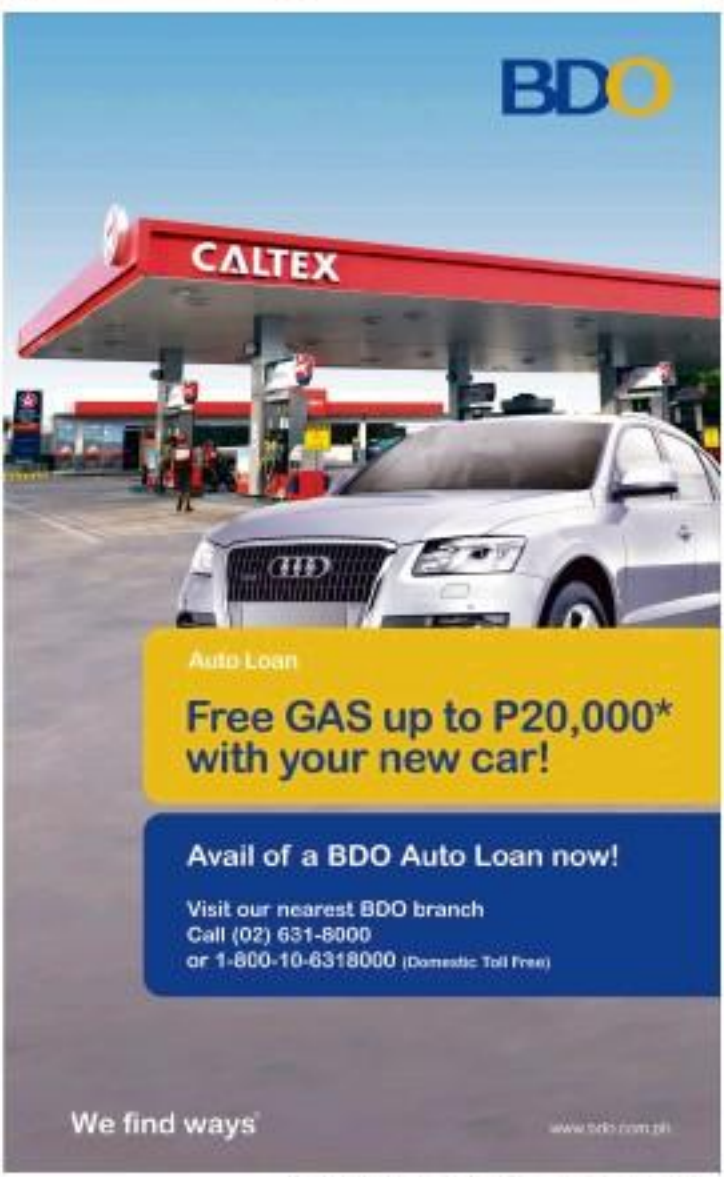
Another train project stalling government approvals is the LRT line 2 East Extension from Santolan, Marikina, to Antipolo's Masinag Junction. The project is awaiting the green light from the National Economic and Development Authority. All projects worth more than P500 million need approval from the Neda Board, which is led by the President.

Meanwhile, the DOTC last week announced the long-awaited approval of a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system to solve Cebu's transport problems.

The BRT system, the first of its kind in the Philippines, is patterned after the BRT system in Bogota in Colombia, Curitiba in Brazil, Seoul in South Korea and Guangzhou, China.

The Cebu BRT is a transport system with around 170 buses that will run through dedicated and exclusive busways from Talamban to Tabunoc in Cebu, with a link to Cebu's South Road property.

It is expected to serve an estimated 230,000 passengers per day when it starts operations in 2015.



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Ngayong Araw ng mga Bayani, nagbibigay-pugay ang Meralco sa mga bayani ng ating kasaysayan, pati na sa mga pang-araw-araw na bayani ng kasalukuyan. Sila ang mga magigiting na Pilipinong may malasakit na ginagampanan ang kanilang mga tungkulin sa matuwid na paraan.
Higit pa sa pagiging magulang, kapatid, OFW, guro, nurse at mga tagapagtingkad ng bayan, sila ang patuloy na nagsusumikap upang mabigyan ng mailwanag na bukas ang Pilipinas.
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DOE bidding out hydro site contracts in Q4

Terms of reference seen completed within third quarter

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy (DOE) is bent on pushing through with its plan to bid out within the fourth quarter at least 40 prospective run-of-river hydropower sites for exploration and development.

Mario Marasigan, director of the Renewable Energy Management Bureau of the DOE, said they were now in the thick of preparations for the upcoming bidding, which could be the largest single offering of mini-hydropower projects in the private sector to date.

Marasigan told reporters that the DOE was expecting to finalize the bidding terms of references within the third quarter of 2012, which would allow them to conduct the auction before the end of the year.

What makes these mini-hydropower projects more attractive to prospective investors, according to Marasigan, is that they come with feasibility studies that were prepared by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Based on what Jica has done, the power projects, which are located in Luzon and Visayas, have capacities of 1 to 2 megawatts each.

Marasigan he said further studies might still be needed on the projects. The DOE has been optimistic of being able to draw enough private sector interests in the service contracts for the exploration and development of these hydro sites.

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. earlier said the planned bidding would be pursued after the previous bidding conducted under the Philippine Energy Contracting Round, to which nonpatriot would be submitting offers that would be judged based on their technical and financial work programs.

"Although the installation target set by the government is just 200 MW for the development of hydropower in the first three years, these service contracts are all still in the predevelopment stage so we will not mind receiving more bids. Under these contracts, project proponents will still need to conduct a two-year feasibility study to determine whether the flow of the river is sufficient for their project," Layug explained.

As of the end of July this year, the DOE has awarded 130 service contracts for hydropower projects with combined capacity of 2,086 MW.

There are 148 pending applications for hydropower projects that are generate another 1,802 MW of power.

Review of PH poverty reduction goal sought

By Ana C. Roa

THE GOVERNMENT should review its poverty reduction target when updating the country's economic blueprint.

The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2011 to 2016 is an "excellent plan," according to Jesus Fernandez, head of development cooperation of the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines.

However, he said that "the assumptions for its success were rather high with an expected [economic] growth of 7 to 8 percent to achieve poverty alleviation target."

The PDP targets an annual economic growth of 7 to 8 percent and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty incidence from 33.1 percent in 1991 to 16.6

SEE PAGE B2 >>>

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PLDT SME Nation launches the 3rd MVP Bossing Awards

THE ARANETA for the best 'Bossing' in successfully managing business operations of small and medium enterprises in key industry segments nationwide is now on as PLDT SME Nation officially announced the 2012 MVP Bossing Awards competition as a proud event launch held recently, geared by world-class entrepreneurs and past winners of this unique contest.

Now on its third year, the MVP Bossing Awards has a theme "Mula Noon, Bossing Ngayon: Champion ng Filipino sa Buong Mundo" as a glowing tribute to local business leaders who exhibit Filipino entrepreneurial and leadership values such as creativity, perseverance and determination in successfully managing their business operations.

It is also intended to recognize entrepreneurs with the creativity to survive and revolutionize their business operations using the latest technology, up-to-date methods and solutions.

"The 2012 MVP Bossing Awards is a company tradition in recognizing Pinoy Bossings' contribution to nation-building, entrepreneurs who embody core Filipino values in relentlessly pursuing their aspirations," said PLDT executive vice president and head of enterprise, international and carrier business Eric Alberto.

At the launch event were winners from the 2011 MVP Bossing Awards: Willy Tee Tee of Autobahn Group, Tommaney Tee of FEBN Inc. and Go Singsuyo executive director Wen Lopez.

"It's been a year since we were given the recognition for the hard work we put in our business to meet the growing demand for our products and keep pace with the development both in the domestic and international markets," said Willy Tee Tee, president of Autobahn Group. "We are grateful to PLDT SME Nation in honoring our contribution to the local industry; the award helped us to enhance our market reputation, expand our market reach and this event must level-jaka."

"This early, we want to congratulate the would-be winners of this year's award and encourage them to continuously pursue their business acumen and show everyone that the Pinoy talent is unique in every way and one of the best in the world," said Tommaney Tee, president and CEO of FEBN Inc.

Judging from the huge number of entries last year, PLDT SME Nation expects the number of nominees to surpass the previous submissions.

Similar to last year's competition, nominations for various industry segments representing every SME sector such as Agri-business, Manufacturing, Travel and Leisure, Retail Trade and Finance and Service Industries will be accepted for the 2012 MVP Bossing Awards.

SEARCHING the PLDT SME Nation 3rd MVP Bossing Awards press launch are, from left, Odette Sia, PLDT SME Nation community consultancy head; Glen Lopez, Go Singsuyo executive director; Rod Lumablabatan, PLDT SME Nation vice president and head; Michelle Cuenca, VP for Sun Business marketing; Wilma Tee Tee, president, Autobah Group; Tommaney Tee, president and CEO, Feb Inc. and Ruel Reyes, PLDT SME Nation assistant vice president and marketing head

Colt 45 unmasks Colt 45 Beer Angels

FOR REAL men who know what real strong beer is, there is only one persona: tested and been there? specially made to suit the every man's taste—Colt 45. Now brewed with triple hops to enhance the popular drink's signature strength, taste, and aroma, Colt 45 brings a stronger, better tasting bit to any drinker—and the fun is just starting.

Highlighting its improved brew and bold formulation, Colt 45 recently launched its latest campaign featuring the Colt 45 Beer Angels. Bela Padilla, Denise Laurel and Grace Lifton, three special agents on an important mission. With their assisting hot looks, cunning wit and keen demeanor, the Angels are tasked to make sure one of boys with the new Triple Hops brewed Colt 45.

"Our new campaign unveils the finest drinker who are out on a special mission to reveal more superiority the unique taste and kick of premium roasted malt and triple hops-brewed Colt 45. With the help of our Colt 45 Beer Angels, Colt 45 is out to fire up the drinking scene around the country," says Sun Brewery beer marketing manager Greg Montes.

Beer Angel Grace Lifton represents the Bigger hop, which brings balance to the brew. As a sports newscaster, radio DJ and showbiz correspondent, she exudes unmatched intelligence and is always where the action is. Aside from TV, Grace also leads an active lifestyle with sports such as surfing, football, as well as other activities that thought were solely their such as sport shooting and playing video games. Seeing herself as "one of the boys," Grace is a fearless femme fatale with stunning looks and a magnetic personality that can captivate even most critics.

Actress Denise Laurel is the Magnum hop personified. She has a lot of unbridled love in TV's Pinanda, Denise makes met swoon over her gorgeous looks. But there's more to this Angel than just her undeniable beautiful

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COLT 45 left, Denise Laurel, Greg Montes, Bela Padilla and Grace Lifton

SM Cinema goes full digital

SM CINEMA, currently the largest film exhibitor in the country with 48 theaters in 44 locations and four IMAX theaters, has converted the local cinema industry when it opened its first digital theater at The Block in SM City North EDSA three years ago.

This year, more SM Cinema theaters have gone fully digital while some are still undergoing its digital conversion. Today, SM Cinema, in partnership with Far West Artemis Theatres Corp., managing arm of SM Cinema, shares that by year 2013, all of SM's cinemas (excluding the ones that will be built in the near) would be all digital, a testimony to how committed SM Cinema is to bringing the movie industry to the next level.

The digital conversion is made possible through SM Cinema's collaboration with 3Cinema which manages the deployment of the Virtual Print Fee (VPF) Agreement in the country.

The Virtual Print Fee (VPF) agreement is designed to offer financial assistance to theater owners by funding the first purchase of the digital cinema equipment. This enables big and small film exhibitors to finance the digitization of their theaters without interest and with lower up-front cost. This program was initiated by six major Hollywood studios.

With the financial subsidy from the VPF Program, 3Cinema is going to deploy a world-class digital projection system in the country and is projecting to cover at least 400 screens for digital conversion in the country within the next five years.

Digital Cinema Conversion has shown to have advantages for both theaters sponsors and film producers.

COKE SUPPORTS BSP

CECIL COLA Philippines president and general manager Guillermo Aguirre and public affairs and communications director Lawyer Ishmi Tampus present with Vice President and executive vice Bay Susan of the Philippine (BSP) president Amando C. Tetangco during the signing of the memorandum of agreement extending to another five years Coca-Cola's sponsorship of the BSP's Search for the Ten Outstanding Boy Scouts (TOBS) and the Go Green Go For the Planet Tubig Iwas planting project. While there, (from left) Aguirre, Tetangco, Ishmi Tampus, BSP Board of Governors member and TOBS project officer Bida Palileo Mendoza, Coke corporate communications manager, Maximino J. Tinsay Jr., BSP member emeritus and TOBS chair and Lt. Fidel C. Pangilinan, BSP secretary general

HHC ACCREDITED AS QUALITY ORGANIZATION

HHC MEDICAL director Dr. Doris Cenizal, RN (3rd from left, standing) receives from TUV Rheinland COO Tristan Lourens the ISO 9001:2008 certification. HHC is a service provider of home-based health and wellness programs since 2004. Dr. Elaine Arcilla, HHC QA manager Cruz St from left), leads the nurse case managers and staff that provider skilled care (nursing, caregiving, physical therapy) as reviewed by physicians from accreditation to patient-centered outcomes in the comfort of their own homes. For more info, please call 888-1446.

Come home to the Philippines, come home to SMDC

SMDC Chairman and CEO Henry Sy Jr. (center) is joined on stage by members of Philippine consular offices in North America, including Philippine consul general Cornelio Wycoco (left) and Ambassador to the United States Jose Cuisia (3rd from right).

Balls from the exceptions divine and other fashion gloves sung by SMDC guests were also donated to the event.

Ambassador to the US Leslie Gatan thanks participants for their continued support of the event.

Club New You offers chance at an iPad

ABSBNL to promote healthy and sustainable weight loss, Emerald Executive Center offshoot has invited users to join their special club: Club New You. This club was put together to help Xentool users on their weight loss journey giving them a venue to share their success stories, questions, exercise and goals. Not to mention, the club also gives members the chance to redeem points and win fabulous prizes in monthly events and join regular quarterly contests and raffles for key prizes making the sometimes difficult, task of shedding excess pounds both fun and exciting.

The latest prize up for grabs for Club New You members is an iPad. Last December and January Xentool and Club New You raffled off iPads to Club New You members. Through the entire month of August, Xentool and Club New You members can join the iPad contest (0906-FBA Format: No. 1515 series of 2011) through text-only steps. First just go to Club New You's website at www.clubnewyou.com.ph and click on their "Win the new iPad with Xentool" join on the home page. Then "Like" and "Follow" the page on the Facebook button on the top of the page. The next step is to enter two Xentool promo codes from Aug. 1 to 31, and you are automatically entered into the raffle. Promo codes are found on the upper left hand corner of the Xentool 21 boxes. The more codes you enter, the more entries you get.

Staying an unhealthy weight can lead to serious health problems such as high blood, high cholesterol, diabetes, and many more. Additionally weight gain can also lead to psychological problems like insecurity, stress and even depression. It is important to maintain an ideal weight to remain healthy and happy.

ASIAN TERMINALS AIDS FLOOD VICTIMS

AS LINE with its sustainable corporate social responsibility program, port/terminal operation firm Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) handed a check donation through its employees' disaster preparedness partner Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) to help augment funds for emergency relief and rehabilitation efforts in response to the typhoon-enhanced habagat (southwest monsoon). ATI's 30-plus business support services heads/ Rodolfo G. Cerilla Jr. (second from right) is shown handing over the check donation to PNRC director for fund generation Paul Pangan. They are joined by ATI's AVP for legal affairs George Rufo Cerilla (extreme right) and treasurer manager Vivian Bautista-Ang.

ROTARY-MAKATI GUADALUPE INDUCTION

THE INCOMING officers of the Rotary Club of Makati Guadalupe led by its president Elmer Claveria (center) was held recently at Metropolitan Club. "Service above self" is the main reason I joined the Rotary, somewhat of my self interest just to serve my fellowmen, some reasons as great fellowship and continuously using our time, talent and treasure," said Claveria in his inaugural speech.

PSALM prepares for next attempt to sell 4 power barges

By Aby R. Reiza

HOPE three failed attempts, state-run Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. received bets on selling the coal-fired power barges is talented from National Power Corp.

PSALM has to sell the barges to raise funds that are be used to pay its debts.

In a text message, PSALM president and CEO Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr. also said that the privatization of Power Barges 101, 102, 103 and 104 was mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), which stated that PSALM must privatize all non-core power assets.

"PSALM has to sell the power barges to comply with Epira. We have to find ways to pare down our debts and bring down the government charge. Privatizing the barges will help in achieving these [targets]," Ledesma said. Ledesma stressed that keeping the power barges was "not an option," unless instructed.

Under existing procedures, PSALM can dispose of the barges either by holding another bidding or negotiating with interested parties after two failed bidding and one failed negotiation. The cost may still be up to PSALM board.

"The failure of the recent negotiations was earlier reported to members of the PSALM board. The PSALM Board will convene soon to determine the next steps to be taken in the privatization of the power barges," Ledesma said in his text message.

To recall, the first bidding for the barges which was held in May this year failed because only one offer was submitted. The lone bid came from Aces Power Corp., a joint venture between the Ayala Group's AC Energy Holdings and Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. (TeaOil).

The second bidding was held earlier this month, but was also declared as a failure after receiving again only one offer this time from Trans-Asia Oil. Immediately after the declaration of a failed bidding, PSALM started negotiations with Trans-Asia Oil for the sale of Power Barges 101, 102. However the negotiations also failed as Trans-Asia's offer was way below the reserve price. Bids should either match or must be higher than the reserve price. The Pharmaceutical firm, which also declared to match the reserve price during the negotiations, had offered P4,143 million for Power Barges 101 and 102. P1 million for Power Barge 3 and P9,121 million for Power Barge 4 or a total of P14 million.

The failure to sell these barges may aggravate the expected official power situation in Mindanao by summer of next year. The government is planning a 200-megawatt power supply shortfall as the island next year.

The government has been banking on these power barges, which can each generate 52 MW, to provide the much needed additional power supply in Mindanao by 2013.

BOI-ARMM to host business forum in Davao

By Ben T. Didoneto

THE PHILIPPINE Board of Investments Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PBOI-ARMM) is organizing a business forum in Davao to promote ARMM as an investment destination. BOI director Raul V. Angeles told reporters.

"The ARMM government and the PBOI-ARMM want to promote the region. It is rich in resources, and it is said that there has not been much investment there. But interest is picking up," he said.

BOI-ARMM, with the help of the BOI central office in Manila, are inviting business leaders in the mindanao and overseas to explore opportunities in ARMM this night the business forum.

The BOI, BOI-ARMM and the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) are working together to enhance investment promotion and facilitation in Mindanao.

In May, the agencies could they cover partnership to increase local leaders' capabilities to in-meeting foreign investors.

The booming hotel industry in ARMM, for example, could see some help getting persons, co to Japan and investors based in the Middle East, he said.

The Japan Organization Industries Malaysia Philippines East Asena Growth Area in Brief Logo region, meanwhile, is the target market of the investment promotion efforts for Mindanao and Sulawesi.

The BOI, an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, leads government efforts to promote investments in the country. It helps local and foreign investors establish companies and prospers in areas that can best viable economic activities.

ARMM comprises predominantly Muslim provinces such as Basilan (except Isabela City), Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. It is the only region in the Philippines that has its own government.

Review of PH

From page B1

percent in 2011.

"The first year (2011) was much lower. The year looks better but the global economic situation still uncertain is not that positive so I think they should do a review, particular I think, on the poverty alleviation target," the statement said in announcement last month.

The country grew by only 3.9 percent in 2011. In the first quarter this year, however, the economy grew by 6.4 percent.

The Aquino administration has very good priority programs such as the conditional cash transfer and the universal healthcare, Bacani-mento said.

"The priority programs are all very good but I think the poverty alleviation part we might not be achieved because it is limited on 7 to 8 percent growth. Maybe some short intervention might be important to do," he said.

According to some Development Bank's key indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2012, the Philippines is among the countries in the region that are moving slowly in achieving the goal of eradicating extreme poverty.

Latest data from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) show that poverty incidence among families rose in 2009 percent in 2006, down from 21.1 percent in 2003. The same that less per 1,000 Filipino families were lifted out of poverty between 2006 and 2009.

The National Economic and Development Authority said it would conduct a midterm review of the PDP to incorporate recent economic developments.

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HONDA

BUSINESS

Bank deposits up by 9.3% to ₱4T as of end Apr.

Sufficient resources to support economic growth

By Michelle V. Remo

DEPOSITS placed in banks broker increased in April, boosting optimism among monetary officials that the resources of the banking sector will remain sufficient to help fuel the growth of the economy.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the total peso-denominated deposits in the country's banking system reached P4 trillion as of end-April, up by 9.3 percent from P3.7 trillion in the same period last year.

About half of the deposits were regular savings deposits, the BSP said. The other half represents demand and time deposits, it added.

Officials said the growing deposits reflected the confidence of the people in the banking sector in general.

The central bank said public confidence in the banking sector was anchored on a generally healthy state of the country's banking sector.

Given that deposits from individual and corporate clients of banks are the bedrock of the banking sector's resources, monetary officials said there was sufficient liquidity in the banking sector to support the growth of the economy.

The growing resources of banks are the key reason why loans extended to individual and corporate borrowers are rising as well, the BSP said.

Loans to individuals are seen to continue fueling consumption, while those extended to corporate entities are expected to lead to more job-generating investments.

The BSP earlier reported that outstanding loans extended by universal and commercial banks alone amounted to P2.96 trillion as of end of June, up by 14.9 percent from 2.59 trillion as of the same period last year. The rate of increase in June was faster than the 14.7 percent in May.

Officials said the increase in bank lending was partly credited for the economy's better-than-expected growth so far this year.

The Philippine economy grew by 6.1 percent in the first quarter, faster than the 4.9 percent registered in the same period last year. It was also the second fastest growth rate for the period in Asia, next to China's 8.1 percent.

Economic observers said that despite the growth in lending, financial institutions are still not lending enough.

Economists said that banks had enormous idle resources that they could use for lending.

In the Philippines, the loan-to-deposit ratios of many banks range from 60 to 70 percent. In some countries in the region, the ratio goes as high as over 90 percent.

BSP officials agree to this, noting, however, that demand for loans was not also growing as fast as it should.

They said there should be more investment initiatives so that the economy could maximize the potential of bank resources as a contributor to the growth of the economy.

GOINGS-ON

Nadecor elects new board

INDUSTRIALIST Jose G. Romero and former Transportation Secretary Jose D. de Jesus were elected chair and president, respectively, of Nation-wide Development Corp. (Nadecor) at the board meeting immediately following the company's annual stockholders' meeting.

The yearly business gathering was held on Aug. 23 at the firm's principal offices in Pasig City. Nadecor's board is composed of Bienvenido C. De Jesus, Frederico C. Tapsirul, Manuel Paulo Villar, Aniceto A. Hernaez, Echevarrido E. Fernandez, Ma. Helen RJ Basconsuelo, Victor Lanuzo and Angel Ong.

At the meeting, the stockholders ratified all the acts of the board, including the approval of the 2011 audited financial statements and all contracts executed for by the Nadecor management.

The plan of reappointed SGV and Co. as external auditors.

Nadecor holds a mineral production sharing agreement over the Rizgbing mining project in Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley province. The mining area, covering 1,026 hectares, has estimated deposits of 30.3 million tonnes of gold and 5.4 billion pounds of copper.

BPI's bankers' online app

BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) recently launched its newest point-of-shopping innovation called BPI Bankers Online, which was expected to make getting financial advice easier for Filipino Bancnet bankers.

BPI seeks to help improve financial literacy in the country by reaching out to the more than 27 million Filipinos on Facebook. Through the app, BPI encourages these users to become more aware of their financial health and to seek the expert advice offered by the bank's pool of friendly and knowledgeable bankers.

With the app now on Facebook, Filipinos can go online to ask and get tips on money management, saving wisely, responsible borrowing and other financial concerns. The app also features a connection to BPI's help desk for customers with account-related inquiries and other customer service concerns.

Challenges to telcos in the digital age

By Manuel V. Pangilinan

I HAD thought twice before accepting your invitation because I must admit I'm not a digital native or a certified techie. In fact, my first encounter with technology was with the telex machine and the IBM electric typewriter.

But on reflection, I am more digital than I had imagined—that my day-to-day life is enveloped by digital technologies.

On Aug. 6, during the height of Olympic Hash Basketball, nemesis rivals of the Under-16 National Basketball Team, posted on Twitter pictures of the NCR Quiz in Antonio under arrest. This started a conversation online, in which Nash described the team stranded at the gym. The next day, Nash tweeted that the team was still trapped and he had run out of food and water.

At about 9 a.m. of Aug. 7, Coach Chot Reyes "tweeted" Nash asking how they were. Nash answered by text, "Trapped pa rin," Chot replied, "OK. Coordinating w/MVP Manolo."

At about that time, Sunny Stevens, executive director of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, "texted" me, asking if we could get food and water to the team. Sunny sent the same SMS to Al Panlilio of Meralco, who dispatched a Meralco crew—which had food and, however, that logistic ing today.

At that point, we got in touch with PBA president Ray Espinosa and PBA News head Lechi Cruz-Valdes to send a rescue team with rubber boats.

At 10:30 a.m., Coach Chot tweeted, "Still d' boys help is on d' way" and at 11:44 a.m., Oliver Bautista, head coach of the team, texted Coach Chot: "They're here already, Coach."

Hello Bulletin of Bantay 1 then goes to tweet: "Coach, everyone accounted for. All safe and sound but a little wet. Glad to be of service!"

Ang galing 'no? Ang simple! as Tessie Sagguilan ng sex si sagguilan as Smart or Talk 'N Text—aimed ang Manalo, PBA, PLDT—Amigo! throwing ang salbida.

Digital is here

The digital universe is coming in behind—1.8 trillion gigabytes in 500 quadrillion files were exchanged two years ago—more than doubling every two years, according to Terry Data Magazine, 2010 edition. That's the video equivalent of just watching one HDTV for 23 million years. John Gage of International Data Corp. described those bits of information in the digital universe as numerous as all the stars in our physical universe.

That is the power of digital as such today. The exponential is becoming normal—in fact, the "new normal." And it has become much of a part of my life—as it has yours. Even my humor has gone digital. You've heard about pickup lines, right? Well, you might have heard this one:

Google ka ba? Bakit?
Kasi mas jes sabot ang hinay kung ka!
Para mawala dyodko
Text ka ba? Bakit?
If I see, e?
Uy, nahuhu kaya ito. Ito na lang:
Instagram ka bago? Bakit?
Hahang-kalo ang ex e!

If you folks are going to tweet about that, please don't forget to put the #MMAP hashtag.

Our strategic response to this "digital invasion" is to embrace, rather than resist it. We all know that the worlds of telecom, Internet and media are converging. We want to be at the heart of that convergence, because that is precisely the space where new and exciting opportunities lie.

This represents the first point of our convergence—and underlies our investments in media—TV5, Cignal TV, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star and Business World.

Challenges

The challenges in PLDT emerge from its technic. First, the need for the continuous upgrade of our networks to supply unlimited bandwidth to our customers, second, the threat from over-the-top players like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

As a telco, our first priority is to ensure that our delivery infrastructure is optimized digitally is LTE-enabled and capable of delivering boundless broadband. We know that the mobile space is the future—that LTE or 4G is the future —as are data centers, cloud computing and fiber connectivity.

Smart, for example, has just unveiled its entire mobile network to make it easily upgradable to LTE and HSPA+. Tomorrow, 28th of August, Smart will fire up its 4G network for commercial service, capable of delivering speeds of up to 100 megabytes per second. Access to high-speed mobile Internet will therefore become more widely available all over the country. PLDT is turbo-charging its 54-thousand kilometer domestic fiber optic network, and joining the capacity of its international submarine cable systems up to 100 gigabytes per second. We're also expanding our cloud infrastructure to lead the hundreds of millions who have become addicted to cloud-based social media and e-mail services.

But are users also ours a careful eye on the keys about us—the OTT players. To ignore them is profane, lest to surrender their space is suicide. We must therefore find a balance where we can partner with OTT suppliers and evolve our business model to no subjugate them to commoditizer status.

That is the power of digital as such today. The exponential is becoming normal—in fact, the "new normal." And it has become much of a part of my life—as it has yours. Even my humor has gone digital. You've heard about pickup lines, right? Well, you might have heard this one:

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We can gain from such a symbiotic business model. OTT players are usually greatest users demand for network bandwidth and capacity. If OTT stands to benefit from greater requirements for broadband services, and if we actually provide OTT services to our customers, we make additional revenues as well. Moreover, if we enable our customers to use those services in relation to each other, this will raise our relevance to them—and they will pay for those services. We must be mindful that proprietary content and information are valuable—as they must be paid for.

We welcome smartphones and tablets as they make our customers more engaged with our products and services. Apple has succeeded because their devices put content with the customer, especially with the application universe, which makes Apple devices more interesting—supplying users with unlimited access to entertainment, business solutions, and information with a single touch and from a single device. Would you believe there is even an app called "toilet counter." Talk about emergency ease—I believe the app is operational for Singapore.

Finally, customers can benefit if we add media services as part of our bouquet of product offerings. If we can supply streaming services universally. Local playlists, local music, local video...great! This is an OTT service which can change the business model of TV5 itself.

Internet mobile marketing

Let me now turn to INBMAP.

Clearly, the trinity of new technologies—mobile broadband, social networking and online access—is central to INBMAP.

We all know that social networks have become attractive to brands as distribution platforms, enhancing the reach and effectiveness of your ad campaigns.

But user analytics is now emerging as the game changer for digital marketing. In this regard, our group of companies is in the best position to analyze the development of user analytics in a way that is different from how other countries are doing it.

Mendoza will start building up, by the fourth quarter this year, a powerful set of its powerful infrastructure layers that will deliver prepaid metering service, demand response and usage management. The advantage to the consumer is that he will be empowered to manage his electricity consumption better. The benefit to Meralco is a better understanding of the consumer—his preferences, demand profile and actual behavior...data providing Meralco with a better tool to serve him.

Mayuthal Silver is moving in this same direction—as our lolo says, hospitals and, of course, PLDT itself.

At the end, each of our companies is enabled by user analytics to tailor fit its products, services and messaging to the individual customer, because it is now known him better.

Bridging the digital abyss

Let me now conclude by saying that while all of these are new and interesting, we must remind ourselves that many Filipinos are still cut off from the digital world. They live at the outskirts of cluttering. Wide connected communities —looking from the outside in, separated by a deep digital abyss.

It is important for the future of our country that we bridge this divide as quickly as we can. In a 2000 World Bank study points out, broadband Internet is not just an infrastructure. It is as well a general purpose technology that can be economically restructure an economy. So the "broadband has helped the Philippines rise to the top globally in industries like business process outsourcing. But it has done painfully little to raise the productivity of our farmers. Unlike India, we've unable to supply our farmers with real-time information, and crop-saving information. We have so few farming applications here, despite the banks of knowledge deposited with Philippine-based organizations—like the International Rice Research Institute.

Ideaspace

This brings me to ideaspace—our nonprofit incubator fund designed to stimulate innovation and promote technology-based entrepreneurship in this country.

What brought us to concrete blueprint?

We, at PLDT, are confident we can upgrade and build the bandwidth you all require. Been there, done that.

But the content and services provided over our infrastructure layer are almost all provide by non-Filipino OTTs. Why can't the next Instagram or Google be Filipino? This innovation void defines precisely the national behind Ideaspace.

We're launching a national competition very soon on find and select the 10 best technology-based ideas to be launched in our program. With a funding commitment from our group companies aggregating P500 million over the years, we'd like to give those start-up the sunlight opportunity of succeeding.

And I don't want to end as such a technical note. So let me provide a more powerful argument why we should seek to digital. Simply put—digital adds more fun in the Philippines.

Jose mentor what's trending at malabon such rapt artist at ngo media sagguilan at Wacky Radio 104.9.

Bitay, the fun led to think—fun for my heart to be truly digital, it's time to act like a digital native. So let me finish by saying: "Hey, I just text you—said that is crazy that here's my Twitter—did love me . . . maybe."

Opening remarks delivered by Manuel V. Pangilinan at the 42nd annual business and Media Marketing Association of the Philippines Summit held at Rockwell Powerplant Mall on Aug. 24.

BCDA bids out Taguig City assets

By Rita T. Bichocho

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) successfully auctioned off two assets in Taguig City and the winners will be announced next month, an official said.

BCDA vice president Rina Bañez said in a phone interview that there were several bids received for the 3,099-square meter (sq m) Bonifacio parking facility in Bonifacio Global City (BGC) and the 1,224-sq m Sampaguita Inn Hotel lot in Fort Bonifacio.

"For Sampaguita, there were five proponents who bought bid documents and three submitted bids. All the bids were above the P1.22 million minimum bid price and the highest was P1.90 million," Bañez said.

The BCDA will conduct post-qualification or verification of the prospective winning bidders, she said.

"For Sampaguita, out of 10 that bought bid documents, five submitted. All five bids were higher than the minimum floor price of P288.3 million. The highest bid was P457.55 million," she said.

The Sampaguita parking facility is fit for institutional use such as putting up a school, hospital, or government office, according to BCDA officials. The Sampaguita property can accommodate mixed-use (residential, commercial, institutional) development.

The bidding for the Sampaguita parking facility was held on Aug. 23 and that for the Sampaguita property was on Aug. 24.

Bañez the BCDA declared the failure of the bidding for the Bonifacio Stop property, which is fit for institutional use, as only one bid was submitted during the Aug. 23 auction. Rebidding may be held next month.

BCDA vice president for operations Dean Domingo earlier said in a text message that three companies have expressed interest in the property's use, which the official did not identify, submitted a bid on time. One other bid was apparently submitted on the same day but had missed the deadline.

The Bonifacio property that was auctioned off covered a 5,000-square-meter (sq m) parking range and the 5,289-sq m Richards loop in Pasay City. Bids were to start at P89.100 million.

Gas2Grid to drill 3 wells in Cebu

By Amy R. Remo

AUSTRALIAN firm Gas2Grid Ltd. is embarking on a three-well exploration drilling program starting September this year, to tap the potential of coal gas resources in Cebu.

In a regulatory filing, Gas2Grid reported that the new wells, which would be drilled within areas covered by Service Contract 56, would test three prospects namely Jacob-1, Consuelo-1 and Barg-1 to depths of 1,000 to 1,200 meters.

"These prospects vary in size and resource potential of several million barrels with Jacob-1 having an un-risked potential of up to 50 million barrels recoverable oil. All wells have been approved by the Philippine Department of Energy, landholders' approvals have been granted and site preparations and road access are almost complete," the company said.

Gas2Grid's plans to complete the three-well drilling program between now and 2014, after it was given an extension by the DOE of up to Jan. 26, 2014. The original deadline was July 28 this year.

"The extension of time will provide plenty of opportunity for the company to complete its work program, although it is the company's intention to complete these works before the end of 2012," the company said.

For its planned drilling program in the Philippines, Gas2Grid was able to contract Energy Equipment Corporation's Rig-3 1000 HP Gardner Denver 900 ECR) with a capacity to drill to a depth of 2,750 meters. The drilling rig arrived in Cebu on Aug. 1 and, as of last report, is currently at Barangay Jacob, Cebu.

After the completion of the drilling and workover program, the company will own two good drilling rigs. This will prove extremely beneficial for appraisal and development drilling of off-gas discoveries using Gas2Grid's own rig and operated by the company.

BUSINESS

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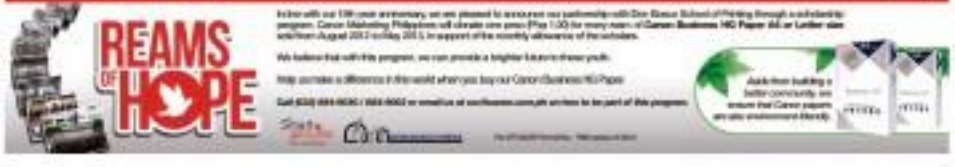
Gov't subsidies down 11.9% in first 7 months

See story on page B3.1



BUSINESS Monday

BPO center, lifestyle park and more for Biñan

ADAMS' John Sobrepeña

By Marlon Garcia
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BIÑAN CITY—This city recently welcomed one of the biggest private sector investments.

Developer Southwoods Realty Corporation laid down plans for what it said would be the next major development in the Laguna province.

Southwoods Center is envisioned to be a premiere business, shopping and recreation hub that will also boost the P2.5 billion facility for business process outsourcing (BPO) companies, according to Robert John Sobrepeña, company chair of the board and chief executive officer and former head of PLDT-Smart Corp. which left onto heavy debts a few years ago.

The launch kicked off recently with the opening of the 180-meter tunnel at the Southwoods Avenue that provides a direct link from the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) to the Southwoods Center.

By August, Sobrepeña says they would begin with the first phase of construction that includes a shopping strip and an activity center that is expected to be operational next year.

The rest of the project that includes a transport terminal, a school, medium-rise condominium buildings, and a lifestyle park complete with a man-made lagoon would be completed over four to five years.

The entire Southwoods Center covers 35 hectares.

It will be a simultaneous development, says Andrew Tessie Lamb Jr., Southwoods chief operating officer.

New jobs

Another major component of the Southwoods Center is the construction of the Information Technology (IT)-or BPO park.

The IT park will have a total of 225 buildings that, when completed (say (early house) 3,500 to 5,000 employees. That's a total of 60,000 to 70,000 new jobs created right here, Sobrepeña says.

The BPO park would have its groundbreaking in 90 days and would be operational in 30 months.

Raymund Lardizo, executive director of the Business Process Association of the Philippines (BPAP), says that since 2006 it has been a trend in the BPO industry to open its facilities in nearby provinces.

"We have decongested Metro Manila from 85 percent down to 75 percent and we want that to go lower. Not only in contact centers, but we are also looking for people to fill in non-voice (backfrom, such as in the fields of) financial accounting, engineering, medical services, animation and research," Lardizo says.

Joji Ulpan, executive director of the Canary Center Association of the Philippines (one another farmer established was the security provided in the city since most of the BPO employees work at night.

Both say there is no competition arising between this city and neighboring Sta. Rosa City, which presently houses a number of contact centers.

Biñan City Mayor Marlyn Alonte-Naguiat welcomes the venture and the jobs it could generate for the city's residents.

"I remember decades ago when my father (a farmer-mayor here) was telling me about these (developments). We want Biñan to be back to its old glory when Biñan is first in Laguna. We are the (province's) gateway by the way," she says.

Biñan became a city in 2000 with an annual income of P1.2 billion.

'EveryDay' plastic

By Doris C. Dumlao

HSBC) based East West Bank has long identified lending to the consumer as a key strategy to be a "progressive" and "forward-looking" bank—one that plans a significant role in the banking system and whose brand resonates across households.

In the past, it made inroads in credit card lending by offering the lowest revolving interest rate and longest repayment terms, thereby rolling out the most affordable card in the market.

But the Commerce-led bank has since launched an array of credit card products catering to various market segments, from the modular borrower to the most affluent. The latest card—first seen "EveryDay" Mastercard—was recently unveiled to harness consumers' growing spending power.

"Others have a special credit card for gasoline, another for hypermarket and for grocery. This is for everything. We're are tied up with them (merchants), we just give straight-up rebates," said HSBC product manager Monteppa Jr. during the launch of the new "EveryDay" credit card.

The new card offers up to 3 percent rebates on "essential" spending—or those spent for grocery, gas and drugstore purchases.

Rebates are also offered for nonessential spending or those outside of grocery, gas or drugstore.

The higher the discretionary spending assigned using this card, the higher the rebates offered.

For nonessential spending below P5,000, the rebate stands at 0.3 percent; for P5,000 to below P10,000, the rebate increases to 0.5 percent; and for nonessential spending worth P10,000 and above, the rebate rises to 1 percent.

The credit cardholder does not need to redeem cash rebates as they will be automatically credited to his "EveryDay" Mastercard account for every P200 worth of cash rebates accumulated.

"We differentiate through the features of the card, not the brand," said Monteppa.

Such differentiation, he said, allows the bank to have a product for every segment, from the "beginner to the affluent in the upper tech."

The "EveryDay" card, he said, is for those in between gold and platinum cardholders.

Other features of the card are as follows:

- All purchases, whether local or international, will be billed and paid in Philippine pesos to allow

EASTWEST introduces the EastWest Everyday Mastercard. At the event are (from left) Port Villa-Real, Country Manager of MasterCard Philippines; Judith Chanlo, VP for Member Relations & Marketing of MasterCard Philippines; Tony Monteppa Jr., President and CEO of EastWest; Jackie Fernandez, EVP and Head of Consumer Lending Cluster of EastWest; and Sandra Villaraza, EVP and Head of Card Marketing & Merchants Division of EastWest.

customers to keep their foreign currency intact.

- The cardholder has the option to pay the minimum payment due, the total outstanding balance or any amount in between on or before due payment due date. If an amount less than total outstanding balance is paid, a finance charge of 3.5 percent per month is applied.

- Cash advances of up to 70 percent of the credit limit may be obtained from any HSBC, RCBC, over the counter, any HSBC branch or any ATM displaying the Mastercard/Cirrus logo.

- There is an option to convert high-value shopping and travel expenses to installment payable in six, 12, 18 or 24 easy payment terms at low monthly add-on interest rates.

Zero interest-rate installment plans are available at selected participating merchants.

Thanks to the payment of utility, telecommunication and insurance bills is offered to those enrolling in its quick bills facility.

HSBC to date has about 800,000 cards in force and aims to breach the one-million mark in the next few years. "We're trying hard," Monteppa said.

About 70.8% percent of HSBC's cards are active, said HSBC executive vice president and consumer lending head Jacqueline Fernandez.

To date, the credit card business accounts for a little more than half of HSBC consumer business or about 1% of the bank's total lending business. In the first quarter, HSBC's consumer portfolio grew by 23 percent, aided by the credit card and auto lending businesses.

"We're hopeful that the trend will hold," Monteppa said.

Microsoft names new MD

MICROSOFT has appointed Stevie Bagacina the new Managing Director for Microsoft Philippines.

Bagui was promoted from her current Enterprise Sales Director role and will report directly to Tracey Sellers, Asia Vice President, Asia Pacific.

Bagui will drive strategic partnerships and alliances in the Philippines and grow the sales and marketing operations for Microsoft in the country.

She is the first Filipino woman to head Microsoft Philippines in 17 years since Microsoft started operations in the Philippines.

Bagui led the expansion of Microsoft's footprint in the key enterprise customers in the Philippines while helping realize the business value of their investments and partnerships with Microsoft.

Bagui also led the Microsoft Philippines market segment for three years.

Tragedy

MAPping THE FUTURE
Joey A. Sarmiento

IN EIRETI, a good manager has friends and foes together. The binding element is the allegiance of a life at once impossibly loved, yet then deeply saddens the wounded many while clashing with someone else soaked few.

I didn't rub elbows with Secretary Jesse Robredo. He didn't know me personally. That privilege belonged to those who had selflessly invested more precious time than I ever could in advancing reforms. Without doubt, my humble efforts will be dramatized by hundreds of eulogies delivered by very important people who surround him. Real lives in no stopping a heart from screaming in bereavement and its deadliest intensities.

That the Filipino people lost Jesse Robredo is a tragedy of inestimable proportions. For a nation that hungers for role models, a man who wields nothing more than principled intentions and exceptional management talent is against our unending predicament one of an obstacle-ridden bureaucracy is a rare gem. This gem of a man was polished to perfection by his extraordinary ability to sway the work-life balance that many inspirational speakers can only eloquently preach but not practice. Beyond reasonable doubt, this tragedy lives deeply into the Filipino psyche.

But the death of Jesse Robredo is shrouded by a bigger tragedy. The bigger tragedy is the inability of the nation, while being obsessed by many subjects not unfortunately, to let its raw gems fully shine and illuminate the darkness brought upon it by its own intellectual laziness and cowardice.

I had known and read a lot about Jesse Robredo before he spoke to us in the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) in 2008. He was such fellow square pegs in the round hole called Philippine politics: Governor Grace Padaca, Governor Ed Panlilio, and Mayor Sonia Lorenzo. There was nothing he and I had colleagues (and Gracie was one of this world). Their homage was simple: walk the talk, but walk courageously. Jesse Robredo's remarks during that meeting struck me for their simplicity and candor. I became even more interested in his outstanding achievements as a local government executive. After all, a mere take dedication to one's craft and passion for one's vocation (and a reasonably sane brand of mind) hasn't served to win the prestigious and sustained Ramon Magsaysay award for Good Governance. The award does not operate like the running rights game that pandemonium the big dance or the laughable exercise that naively dispenses recognition to people whose images are plastic-shopped into cleaner than life by public relations hacks.

In 2000, together with a few colleagues from the MAP and friends from the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, we had a small conference with then Mayor Jesse Robredo. The 2010 electoral canvas was less than a year away and a frustrated public was clamoring for a fresh face that would elevate the political discourse to something more than just a march to the lesser evil. Traditional politicians from deeply entrenched political families were lunch-bunching interviews with early campaign propaganda disguised as public service ads. "Voice of the silent" were the emerging response from cynical members of civil society, pressure organizations, workers' movements, and business organizations.

The conversations with Mayor Jesse were refreshing and inspiring. In attendance were chief-executive officers of two major business organizations. I thought then that the search for a reform candidate would lead nowhere if we weren't willing to take a risk on qualified people who had yet to be tainted by the corruption of the committed vote. After all, this was how it was with Cory Aquino and many other reform candidates of recent vintage. Mayor Jesse was asked what his political plans were. He said that he might consider a run for governor. He asked him rather innocuously why he would want to be part of a prance gallery when his experience and achievements as a public service executive were closely supervised by those who were unashamedly "applying" for the job. He replied that he didn't think he stood a chance.

Little did I know that many of my colleagues had made up their minds to support another reform candidate who ignored a squeaky clean image and had the resources to mount a viable campaign but was of the same traditional mold. They indicated as to many ways, not the least of which was the suggestion that Mayor Jesse support this candidate's bid to join the cabinet if the latter won. That seems on such basis to my incipient "Robredo for President" adventure.

Jesse Robredo would have become senator and local governments secretary under the most innocuous of conditions. No, Aquinas was holding down his real potentials. He he put aside into a veritable mediocre. He made local government mentors and police officers realize that leaders could achieve much by working quietly but working a big magic wand. Example is a powerful teacher and Jesse Robredo used this weapon to great advantage. "Tuwang matuwid" (the straight and narrow path) is a slogan that has been both lauded and pilloried. But Jesse Robredo delivered it in a manner that leaves no no-thinker more hot to boot it.

Courage makes us overcome the toughest hurdles and aim for greatness in government in any aspect of life. It makes us proactive and encouraging. It enables us to deal with risks and profit from them. On the other hand, intellectual laziness makes us concede to the slightest hurdles that we encounter. We are ripe for small, incremental wins. The problem is that these wins come few and far between. After a while, we realize that our frequent loses have helped cut our (already quiet) wins. This is the tragedy that Jesse Robredo courageously sought to reverse. If Diane who spent half of her life in death will feel compelled to take up the reins that with equal courage, Jesse Robredo's death, albeit painful, will make sense.

(The author is Chair of the Mapúa Institute, Inc. and the MAP President in 2009. Feedback at mapúa@mapúa.edu.ph. For previous articles, please visit map.org.ph).

Gov't subsidies down 11.9% in first 7 months

NFA tops list of recipients with P4B in subsidies

By Rainier W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT gave out P123.86 billion in subsidies to state-owned and -controlled corporations in July, the bulk of which went to entities engaged in projects related to housing, irrigation, crops and health.

Documents from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the amount was 11.4 percent higher than the P111 billion given out in the same months of 2011.

This brought cumulative subsidies to state firms for the first seven months of the year to P124 billion or 11.9 percent less than the P140.5 billion given in the same period last year.

The increase in January-July spending on subsidies was observed as the national government's spending went up by 12.1 percent during the seven months ended July.

Expenditures for July alone went up by 21.6 percent, prompting Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad to say that national government spending was "definitely gaining momentum" and that continually faster spending could be expected for the rest of the year.

Most cited improvements in expenditures were bolstered by increased activity in project implementation among departments and agencies.

He said that because of continuing improvements in spending growth, the fiscal deficit in July alone went up to P100.2 billion, which brought January-July deficit to P73.7 billion or more than double the P34.5 billion posted in the entire first half.

Last week, the Treasury reported that the government's aggregate spending in the seven months to July reached P928 billion or 71 percent of the program for the first three quarters.

The top recipient of expenses on subsidies to state firms in the first seven months was the National Food Authority (NFA), with P4 billion.

Others in the top five recipients of subsidies were Philippine Health Insurance Corp. or PhilHealth with P2.1 billion; National Housing Authority (NHA), P1.8 billion; National Electrification Administration, P1.6 billion, and National Irrigation Administration, (NIA), P1 billion.

For July, the NIA was the top recipient, getting P600 million or about half of the total subsidies during the month.

Other firms and agencies that got the biggest subsidies in July were the NIA with P327 million; Philippine Crop Insurance Corp., P9.00 million; National Railways and Transport Institute, P7.5 million, and Philippine Children's Medical Center, P3 million.

Sun Cellular leads industry growth at 17% year on year

Mobile phone operator Sun Cellular raised its net service revenues by a robust 17% in the first half of 2012, earning Php 10.7 billion versus Php9.2 billion for the same period last year, the highest growth rate for any local telco this year.

Sun Cellular President and Chief Executive Officer Orlando Vea attributed the company's strong first half results to further increasing sales of postpaid subscriptions and positive consumer take-up on their new prepaid load variants, increase demand in broadband products and the marked improvement of Sun's network coverage powered by its sovereign wireless company PLDT.

Revenue growth for the company's Postpaid, Prepaid, and Broadband segments all posted double-digit growth rates which contributed to Sun Cellular's overarching to clasp the path for the local telecom industry.

"We have built on our growth momentum in the first quarter of the year. We are now leveraging the synergies of the synergies between companies in the PLDT wireless group, and delivering value to our existing services such as postpaid offerings and prepaid load variants, among others," Vea said.

Vea added that the network improvements and continued enrichment will enhance the time-to-enhancing network quality. Since the start of the year, Sun Cellular has enhanced its coverage, with the highest market improvement in Mindanao and Northern Luzon. Vea says, Sun will consider deploying "high-yield" antennas as well as upgrading network elements to meet the growing demands for its postpaid and prepaid products and services.

Elaborating on Sun Cellular's first half performance, Chief Operating Officer Charles Lim pointed to the increase in demand for affordable smartphones that come with best-value plans.

"Sun Cellular is committed to providing powerful yet affordable Android-based smartphones to its customers. With the right Sun Postpaid Plan, consumers will now be able to expand their horizons in mobility and go beyond simply calling and texting," Lim explained.

In Prepaid, Sun Cellular introduced new load variants in its Send Unlimited and Combo Loads that has seen good acceptance among the market.

"Sun continues to be a practical choice for Prepaid customers because of its improving network and great value products, hence they are starting to use their lines more often. As a result, people are starting to load in higher denominations," Lim explained. "Of course our Get and Text Unlimited load variants are still there and are now complemented with more upsized features, making it the best-value unlimited variant in the market. As you know we continue to strive in providing best value services that cater to all market segments, including at-will and medium businesses," he added.

Sun's Wireless Broadband base also grew significantly during the period. "We are expecting these numbers to rise steadily as we expand the reach of our 3G broadband nationwide" Lim said.

He added that Sun Broadband started offering Group plans, Multi-SIM plans, and SIM only plans in order to subscribers who want to use Sun Cellular's broadband service in their various gadgets, in anticipation of the continuing growing demand for broadband services.

"We would like to make sure that our saving and potential subscribers are able to take advantage of the synergies available within the PLDT group, and we are glad that it was one starting to pay off," Lim concluded.

Save Your Future

Time Deposit Interest Rates*

P50 & 100s	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	180 Days	360 Days	5 Years & 1 Day
10,000–49,999	2.00%	2.25%	2.50%	2.75%	3.00%	6.50%
50,000–99,999	2.50%	2.75%	3.00%	3.50%	3.75%	6.50%
100,000 -999,999	3.50%	3.75%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	7.00%
1,000,000–1,999,999	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	7.00%
2,000,000–4,999,999	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	7.00%
5,000,000 – Above	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	5.75%	7.00%

Regular Savings Account (*)

*Rates as per latest issue and subject to change without prior notice.

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SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION SERIES "2" PREFERRED SHARES

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7.500% p.a.

▶ Series "2-A" callable starting 3rd year with a step-up on the 5th year

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8.000% p.a.

▶ Series "2-C" callable starting 7th year with a step-up on the 10th year

Copies of the Prospectus are available through the following banks:

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HSBC

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Participating Underwriters

PNB TRUSTAR

Selling Agents

BANK OF COMMERCE

Trading Participants of the Philippine Stock Exchange

BUSINESS

Smart says 3G frequency price is fair

'Our floor price should be P12B'

By Paolo G. Montecillo

DOMESTIC carrier Smart Communications Inc. said it could have asked for more money in giving up the third-generation (3G) mobile frequency held by unit Connectivity Unlimited Resource Enterprises (Core).

But the company that controls two-thirds of industry revenues said it chose to let go of the 3G frequency at a steep discount as a sign of goodwill to the government, which aims to maintain competition in the country's deregulated telecom sector.

Smart, the mobile unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), is seeking a nod recovery for 0.5(R) of P12.12 billion for its Core frequency. The amount represent the investments the company made to allow Core to offer 3G services.

"If I am compare that price with Thailand, where there is a 3G frequency at a steep discount as a sign of goodwill to the government, which aims to maintain competition in the country's deregulated telecom sector.

Smart, the mobile unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), is seeking a nod recovery for (CRV

BUSINESS

Mobile Alert: Text INQ BUSINESS to 2467 | Website: www.inquirer.net/business | E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph | Text to your business: inquirer to 2467

BSP provides relief to banks in storm-hit areas

Banking clients given more time to pay back their loans

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is extending regulatory relief to banks in areas hit by tropical storm "Helen" so that they can temporarily relax loan evaluation rules affected borrowers.

Officials said calamities already affect the ability of bank clients to promptly pay their loans and other obligations, thus granting a temporary relief was appropriate.

Under the relief program, loans of borrowers residing in areas affected by the tropical storm, will be temporarily excluded from the computation of past due ratios of concerned banks.

Also, the loan loss provision required to cover restructured loans will be temporarily reduced from 5 to 1 percent. Supposed penalties on deficient reserves and delays in submission of documentary reports will also be temporarily lifted.

The BSP also said affected banks would not be required to promptly remit payments on their loans to the central bank, if they have any, so that they can focus on rehabilitation.

Concerned banks will also be allowed to book on a staggered basis, over a maximum of five years, the allowances for probable losses arising from loans they have extended to individuals and corporate borrowers affected by the calamity.

The central bank also said concerned banks may extend financial assistance to employees affected by the calamity, even if the assistance is not included in the Fringe Benefit Program approved by the BSP.

The BSP also said it was granting grace periods and, on a case-to-case basis, restructuring of loans to banks in affected areas.

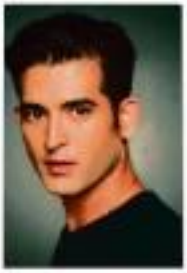
Banks covered by the regulatory relief are those in the following areas: Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Isabela, Zambales, Occidental Mindoro, Ifugao, Benguet and Mt. Province.

Tropical storm "Helen" hit the country on Aug. 15 to 16.

Earlier, the BSP granted regulatory relief to banks affected by the southwest monsoon or "Habagat."

Similar relief measures were granted to banks affected by typhoons Sendong, Pedring, Mina and Juaning in 2011.

Marco Lobregat on Challenges, Changes and Good Choices



Only a few short years after graduating from college, Marco Lobregat was at the peak of his career. Working for the World Eye Network, a financial service exclusively for overseas Filipinos, he interviewed political and business leaders, and his gain their insight on business trends and opportunities. Then, the global economic recession hit.

Disheartened that the financial world was in shambles, he decided to get out of the corporate world to find his own niche. Wanting to make use of his family's 4-hectare property in Lipa, he sought for a high yielding product that he could grow. A trip to the supermarket proved to be his eureka moment, as he conceived what was to be his Ministry of Mushrooms.

"I have always loved mushrooms since I was young," he enthused. "When I went to Korea in '97, I noticed that most of the mushrooms were imported. So, we teamed up by growing it locally." Taking inspiration from a friend in Ipsian who grew mushrooms at home as a hobby, Marco risked capital for his business and started his experiments.

At first, the only goal was to make sure the mushrooms grew. Armed with determination, Marco and his partners pressed on to better understand fungi and its different applications. "We failed many times," he admitted. "But it's only thru failure that you actually learn how to do."

The choice to keep moving forward paid off. They eventually started delivering mushrooms to friends and family. The business grew further as they began to supply mushrooms to grocery and restaurants. Soon, they opened their own stall at the Salcedo Market and attracted even bigger clients.

What seemed as a positive choice, quickly became a passion for Marco. "I get more in love with mushrooms, the more I read and check it out," he shares. "Aside from being a super food, mushrooms also have medicinal and environmental benefits. It's for these reasons that the Ministry of Mushrooms aims to build a sustainable, world-class mushroom industry in the Philippines."

Edifying his own niche and working hard for his success instilled in Marco an appreciation for services that deliver great value. A perfect fit for this entrepreneur is Sun Cellular, with Postpaid plans providing first class features for kids. The first to the market to offer unlimited calls and text, Sun Cellular plans are also loaded with add-on services that surpass competition.

"But it has been a learned thing for a lot of people," Marco says. "But considering its fully loaded plans, reliable connection and expanded coverage, it's about time people make the practical decision and make Sun Cellular their primary line. As for me, it's my good choice."

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

RYAN NEIL B. EMANO

The above-mentioned person has resigned from, and is no longer connected with, Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc. effective 10 July 2012.

Said resignation was accepted without prejudice to any action that said Company may have with respect to his pending accountabilities.

Any transactions entered into by Mr. Emano on behalf of Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc. shall not be honored.

(PIN - Aug. 24, 25, 27 & 28, 2012)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JASPER ROMAN AGUINAL DO

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT **JASPER ROMAN AGUINALDO**, A SIR RUN ERGON STREET, MCDONALD PHASE 2, MARIKINA CITY HOUSE POSITION APPEARS ABOVE IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH PHARMEDIC INTERNATIONAL INC. EFFECTIVE JULY 31, 2012.

ANY TRANSACTIONS MADE BY HIM OR HIS BEHALF WILL NOT BE HONORED BY THE COMPANY. PLEASE REPORT ANY UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITY IMMEDIATELY THROUGH THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL:

info@pharmedicphil.com
cases@pharmedicphil.com

(PIN - Aug. 27, 2012)

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids are invited for the PROCUREMENT OF MINOR TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES

Contract Duration: 1 YEAR

Approved Budget for the Contract: ₱ 1,000,000.00

Source of Funds: GENERAL FUND

Bidding Documents may be purchased from the Office of the City Treasurer upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ₱ 1,000.00.

Bids must be delivered to the Office of the City Treasurer on or before September 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bidders should have completed, within 5 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bids must be duly accompanied with: (a) Bid Security in the form of a Bid Securing Declaration or any of the forms and amounts stated in Section 27.2 of the IRR of RA 9184; and (b) Valid Mayor's Permit.

The City Government of Mandaluyong reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

Ms. Ma. Cristina C. Cruz
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee
Secretariat
Tel. No. 532-4000 loc. 2301

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANNABELLE R. CRUZ
City Treasurer

(PIN - Aug. 27, 28 & 29, 2012)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JACKLYN DOMINGO

MAIRYN CAPISTRANO

This is to inform the public that the above persons **JACKLYN DOMINGO** (Audit staff) and **MAIRYN CAPISTRANO** (Accounting staff) are no longer connected to G.R. RAMINGAS, CONSTRUCTOR, INC., effective June 30, 2012. Presently, **MAIRYN CAPISTRANO** is facing a criminal complaint for QUALIFIED THEFT at the Office of the City Prosecutor of Mandaluyong.

Any transaction entered into by these persons after the said date will not be honored by the company.

(PIN - Aug. 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 10, 2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

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09175021908

TORRE DE MLA
DMCI CONDO
PRE-SELLING
09178653388

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

LOT FOR LEASE

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUY - SELL - TRADE
ROLEX
LUXE WATCH

VEHICLE ACCESSORIES

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DEALERSHIP

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late [illegible] (a.k.a. MARIA ROSALES GUIMARES) was duly published among the heirs as per Doc. No. 26, Page No. 32, Book No. VII, Series of 2012 executed before Public Atty. Jose Emilio S. Valeriano of Calamba City, Philippines.

(PIN - Aug. 27, 28 & 29, 2012)

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DEALERSHIP

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BULACAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Malolos City
"Your Competent (not Perfect Monopoly)"

INVITATION TO BID

The Bulacan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BUELCO), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective and accredited bidders to apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the **SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE VARIOUS LINE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS** with an Approved Budget Cost of PHP[illegible].

Details will be discussed during a **pre-bid conference** on **August 31, 2012, 2:00 P.M.** at the BUELCO Training Room. Bidding Proper shall be on **September 6, 2012 10:00 A.M.** at the BUELCO Board Room.

For interested suppliers but not yet accredited by BUELCO, please submit requirements for accreditation from **Atty. L. Fuentebella**. All bids submitted must be accompanied with a bid security, in cash or cheque in the amount equivalent to 10% of the bid amount. For further inquiries, please contact Engr. Abdmalique at 0927 7337648 or email bac@buelco.com.ph.

BUELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or otherwise thereof and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd.) ROMEO D. JOSEZ, PEE
General Manager

(Sgd.) EDGAR M. DAYMAYAN, REE
BAC Chairman

(PIN - Aug. 24 & 27, 2012)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is requested to contact the undersigned for any information on the whereabouts of ***Mrs. GILDA LARAGAN BISSET (NEE GILDA LARAGAN - Born on September 1, 1956)*** who was last seen at Ciudad Regina Subdivision, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

DE GUZMAN GALIAS AND RIVERA LAW OFFICES
G/F, C. C. Castro International Building,
No. 58 Timog Avenue, Quezon City 1100
Telefax: 1021 4009/56 & Email Address:
dgralaw@dgralawoffices.com

(PIN - August 3-6 & 10, 2012)

need a job?

BULACAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Malolos City

INVITATION TO BID

The Bulacan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BUELCO), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective and accredited bidders to apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the **SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE VARIOUS LINE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS** with an Approved Budget Cost of PHP[illegible].

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(Sgd.) ROMEO D. JOSEZ, PEE
General Manager

(Sgd.) EDGAR M. DAYMAYAN, REE
BAC Chairman

(PIN - Aug. 24 & 27, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
ISABELA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Aguit-it, Isabela City, Basilan Province
Telefax No. (062) 312-1000 / (062) 312-1001
Website: http://www.isabelacitywaterdistrict.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Isabela City Water District now invites prospective contractors to participate in the bidding of the following projects, viz:

PROJECT 1

Name of Project: CONSTRUCTION OF SHALLOW WELL PROJECT (SW) NO. 1 (PAMPANG)

Location: Brgy. Port, Isabela City

Brief Description: The project consists of Construction of Concrete Shallow Well, Engineering Works, Concrete Pedestal, Concrete Deck Slab, Concrete Fence, Gate, Steel Ramp, Steel Stairway, Concrete Water Tank, Steel Tank, Steel Elevated Tank, Concrete Footing, Concrete Column, Concrete Beam, Concrete Slab

Mula sa pananalig sa buhay na walang hanggan

ANG DE LA SALLE BROTHERS AT ANG PAMILYANG LASALYANO SA PILIPINAS

ay ikinalulungkot ang pagyao ni

Kalihim Jesse Manalastas Robredo

MAYO 27, 1958 – AGOSTO 18, 2012

"Mapagpalad ang mga may kusilak na puso sapagkat makikita nila ang Diyos. Mapagpalad ang mga nagpapatawad para sa kapatawaran sapagkat tatawagin silang mga anak ng Diyos."

Mateo 5:8-10

Sa hali, hindi tamang lungkot at pagluha, bimabuhay mo rin sa kaloobar namin ang bagong inspirasyon at pag-asa dahil sa iyong kalimbawang mainagal. Hindi lang pangarap ang diang matuwid, pinatunayan mo at ipagpapatuloy namin ito. Hindi mawawalang halaga ang mga sinimulan at mga isinabuhay mo!

Paalam Kalihim Jesse. Paalam Kapatid na Lasalyano. Tunay mong pinanahan si Hesus sa iyo at sa aming mga puso! Paalam sa isang Tunay na Bayaning Pilipino!

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

VICENTA OLIVEROS TORRE

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband Federico on August 25, 2012 at the age of 97

Her children Jess & Cynthia Torre, Jorge & Wennie Torre, Linda & Rene Ferrer (†), Carmen & Art Dimayuga, Vicente (†) & Ligaya Torre, Mary & Rony Ballesteros, Eugene & Marilie Torre, Bob & Pep Fariñas, Jose Torre (†), Felipe & Lourdes Torre; grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives request the prayers readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels (Cremation), Inc., Marikina-A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Friday, August 31, 2012 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Oldest Reading Classifieds

More Classifieds on page...

EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY B4-4

OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION B4-4

CLASSIFIEDS

The marketing master: born or made?

ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE Philippine Marketing Association (PMA), an organization composed of the country's top marketing professionals, a marketing master is made.

Ms. Gwenn Albarracin, PMA president, says a marketing master is made and molded into perfection. "A marketing master is one who employs education in the school classroom and the classroom of life."

A marketing master is a professional learner. He has exposure and authority in the field of marketing, and is recognized for developing successful marketing programs able to transform the business landscape, says Albarracin. Whether it's a service product, price, promotion or distribution strategy, the key for marketing master is a game changer that has made a mark in the marketing industry.

A successful marketing master, Albarracin explains "should have analytical and creative skills, plan the passion, listening, that he can develop innovations and team formations to achieve customer satisfaction, delight and ultimately achieve business goals."

Amid a globally competitive marketing landscape, Albarracin is proud to point out that the Filipino marketing professionals of today are not only performing above par with international standards but are also setting trends in the industry, which is to create buzz or harness the pride of the Filipino and help to entice buyers.

And that is where PMA comes in. Organized to propagate the discipline of marketing, help its members grow through marketing education to improve their profession and eventually contribute to national socio-economic development, the PMA is undertaking several initiatives to enable Filipino marketing professionals ride the wave of globalization and rise to world-class marketing masters.

As an affiliate of the Asian Marketing Federation (AMF), an organization of 20 Asian marketing associations and now being instituted, the Philippines is able to tap into benefits where they share successful marketing programs and ideas with other countries' associations. And since the AMF is also affiliated with the American Marketing Association, members have access to the latest marketing strategies, trends, research and programs that are vital to the business community. Locally, the PMA Education Committee also holds regular competitive marketing seminars to help make employees who need further training in marketing's various disciplines.

However, Albarracin said what the PMA is most excited about is its annual National Marketing Conference (NMC) which, for this year, is elevated to an Asian Marketing Conference (AMC). Dubbed the Asian Marketing Matters," the conference, which will be held at the Shangri-La Hotel on July 19-20, 2012, will feature world-class speakers, thinkers and achievers from all over Asia who will share success stories and insights on marketing.

PMA set several theme-like tasks-off from the PMA mess for this year, "Marketing Evolution: Innovations and Excellence from Asia." Albarracin believes that the building of the AMC in the country is very timely and beneficial to marketing professionals and aspiring marketing masters. "Conference attendees will surely get inspiration from inner success stories and exciting and innovative cases products from Asia is definitely on the rise, and the world is taking notice!"

Among the notable speakers for "Internationals" include Hermawan Kartajaya from Indonesia, founder of the Asian Marketing Federation and co-authored "Marketing 3.0" and "Rethinking Marketing; Nathaniel's Marketing Emergence in Asia" with international marketing guru Philip Kotler, Greg Armstrong, Chief Technology Catalyst of McCann Worldgroup Singapore, and Steven Wong, Chief Executive Officer of TNS Global (China). For the local side, speakers include Eric Ramon Aberasturi, Secretary of the Department of Tourism, and Atikah Ola, co-founder and Chairman of Mercurich and Publicis Philippines.

"With the holding of the AMC in the Philippines, the PMA knows that many Filipino marketing professionals will benefit from what they will learn during the conference that hopefully will help them become marketing masters in the future. From heroes, I can't be surprised if more and more Filipino marketers make it big globally because we have the innate ingenuity and creativity to help increase and transform and then connect to the ever-changing consumer and marketing landscape," declared Albarracin.

For more information about registration details and other concerns about the Asian Marketing Conference, "Internationals: Unleash The Asian Marketing Matters," please call the PMA secretariat at 634-7331, 634-4809, 636-7700, 0917-315-0055, 0917-661-6980 or 0920, email marketmatters@yahoo.com, or visit www.asianmarketing.multiply.com.

THE ONE ALGON PLACE FOUNDATION DEDICATES THEIR NEW BUILDING TO DR. BALTAZAR K. REYES

The One Algon Place Foundation unveiled their new Building dedicated to Dr. Baltazar V. Reyes as part of Mr. Rudio A. Gonzales Jr. promise to the late Dr. Reyes and his family for founding The Academy of Hope. The event was attended by Vice President Jejomar Binay and DOH Undersecretary Ted Herbosa, Mr. Ivan Celedio Representative of Senator Edgardo Angara's, Hon. L.R.D. Seldon Coronado, Mr. Rudio Gonzales III, Dr. Ben Vida, DOH USEC. Ted Herbosa, Mr. Rudio Gonzales Jr. Mrs. Annie Gonzales, , Vice President Jejomar Binay, Mr. Rudio A. Gonzales Jr., Vice-President Jejomar Binay, Dra. Marita Reyes, Dra. Pia Reyes, Dr. Cornelio Ravanag, Mrs. Annie Gonzales, Mrs. Cari Gonzales, Ms. Marilyn D. Pio, Sr. Renata Dela Rosa, The Academy of Hope is a Drug - Alcohol Treatment and Rehabilitation Center & Acute-Chronic Psychiatric Facility that deals with Anxiety, Depression, Bi-Polar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Drinks, Geriatrics and Substance Abuse problems. For inquiries, TAOH is located at Brgy. Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna. (02) 584-4000 or (02) 809-0457 / (09.17) 330-8000; (049) 502-2297. Please visit our website at www.onealgonplace.com.ph

BUSINESS

Filipinos seen staying in PH as economy grows

Lopez group raises stake in solar sector

By Jerry R. Barro

THE LOPEZ-led First Philec Group plans to increase investments in the solar power industry by installing solar units in Batangas and Cavite that can generate about 8 megawatts.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the First Philec Group, through its subsidiary First Philec Solar Solutions Corp., is seeking approval for the service contracts of its five proposed solar power projects.

According to a DOE report, First Philec Solar is looking to put up the 0.10-megawatt Tanauan City; the 0.15-MW Lucena Solar; Hawaii Project; 0.300-MW Sta. Rosa Solar Power Project; and the 0.7-MW Iruhin Power Hub) Solar Power Project, all in Batangas.

The company likewise plans to invest in a 1-MW Cavite Solar Power Project in Silang, Cavite.

First Philec Solar was incorporated in July 2010 to cater to the photovoltaic solar industry, which is seen having great potential for growth in the Philippines.

The company, which locates its utility, commercial and residential scale photovoltaic (PV) applications, was put up as part of the Lopez group's increasing exposure in renewable energy and solar technologies.

In December 2011, First Philec Solar Solutions completed its first commercial scale solar photovoltaic installation in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

By Rowena W. Domingo

SMARTMINDS boss emeritus are expected to be less important to the Philippine economy "in the coming years" as improving job prospects in the country may dissuade Filipinos from leaving, according to DBS Group.

The financial services provider said in a research note that the domestic economy had been performing "very well" and that investments led growth may be forthcoming.

The Singapore-based firm cited government reforms, low debt levels and steps taken to address the high youth unemployment as "all positive steps" that point to better economic growth.

"Working domestically may become more attractive to locals as employment opportunities grow," DBS said. "We suspect that remittances will slowly diminish in importance in the coming years."

The group also noted that the sluggish economy in Europe and the Middle East pulled down the growth of remittances to the Philippines to a 15-month low of 4.2 percent year-on-year in June.

"Accordingly, this also implies that full-year remittance growth will be around 5 percent to 6 percent this year, a continued deceleration from 7.2 percent and 6.2 percent in 2011 and 2010, respectively," DBS said.

"In the short term, there are considerable headwinds to remittance growth amid a lackluster global economy," it added.

Further, DBS said that the strong peso also mitigates the effectiveness of each dollar of remittance inflows, resulting in less support for the domestic economy.

The group said that the growth of remittances to the Philippines was unlikely to return to the double-digit growth rates seen from 2002-2008 when growth was strong in the developed economies including the United States and Europe.

Together, these two major markets accounted for a combined 58 percent of total remittances in 2011.

"The heavy debt load in the two regions implies that economic growth will be constrained over the medium-term," DBS said.

"Asia remains a bright spot, but the region only accounts for 12.8 percent of (global) total remittance and is unlikely to escape the recent slowdown in the developed economies," it added.

Gov't targets ₱2.22-M cut in annual power bill

THE GOVERNMENT expects to save in excess of 2.22 million pesos in annual electricity expenses by installing 69,231 bulbs, once the Department of Energy completes the "retrofitting" of 12 state-owned offices and universities in the Visayas.

In a statement, the DOE said it signed last week an agreement with seven universities, one hospital and four local government offices in Visayas, allowing it to improve the existing lighting systems in the government buildings by using power-saving efficient technologies.

Aside from the potential monetary savings, the retrofitting is expected to reduce consumption by about 222 megawatt-hours and greenhouse gas emissions by 120 tons of carbon dioxide yearly.

"The government plans to retrofit a total of 105 government buildings and make them more energy efficient.

The move is expected to generate savings of as much as 193 million in electricity expenses yearly and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 3,900 tons.

The government completed the retrofitting of 28 government buildings within Metro Manila in February this year, while the **retrofitting of the remaining 100 buildings is** ongoing.

Early this month, the DOE signed an agreement with 56 agencies from the National Capital Region and Southern Tagalog for the retrofitting initiative, which is part of the bigger Philippine Energy Efficiency Project (PEEP).

In January 2009, the DOE began implementing the PEEP, which is aimed at reducing energy peak demand and all impacts for power generation.

With PEEP, the government expects to reduce peak power demand by 450 megawatts (MW) and reduce oil import by $1.26 million yearly.

Apart from retrofitting of government buildings, PEEP projects also include the replacement of old bulbs in households, expansion of energy efficiency labeling and power building initiatives and communication.

—Jerry R. Barrio

PH electricity tariffs still 2nd highest in Asia

By Cesar B. Bautista

DESPITE the competitiveness summit in 2006, some 1,000 representatives from various business groups and the private sector identified the top sources of noncompetitiveness in the Philippines.

They found the Harvard approach of Michael Porter's Diamond as guided by the Asian Institute of Management and other experts in energy formation.

The high cost of energy was cited as one of the major hurdles in competitiveness and this also identified factors that determine competitiveness.

These are: 1) Quality of human resources, 2) Professional public officers, 3) Skills access to business, 4) ease of doing business, and 5) Strategic infrastructure/logistics networks.

While some progress on these factors has been achieved during the last five years, especially in the last two years, there has been no improvement in making the cost of electricity competitive.

We were therefore pleased to learn that Meralco had commissioned the International Energy Consultants to conduct a study on the current situation and compare our retail electricity tariffs with the regions and the rest of the world. We were invited together with other business practitioners from various groups to the presentation of the report by Dr. John Mortis, president of IEC. It was a well-researched study with a clearly arranged program which encouraged questions from the floor.

The following points were highlighted:

+ Structure: distribution charges are fair and reasonable, as compared to other countries. Distribution accounts for only 15 percent of the total retail electricity tariffs, but it sees as the collector of the other 85 percent which is promptly remitted to the other concerned agencies.

+ The cost of electricity remains the second highest in Asia due to generation charges (66 percent of retail tariff). Transmission charges, located with other charges, accounted for 9 percent of the retail tariff; more of this later.

The balance of 10 percent is composed of VAT and other charges/taxes.

+ On fuel and capital costs, which account for half of the generation charges, Dr. Mortis claimed that fuels are priced according to international prices. However, he relies only to PDB prices, not delivered prices to the generating plants, which include duties, taxes or royalties. He said does he take into account the [illegible] of the power plants in the management of power as a development corporation strategy for reasonable powers cost which ensures employment and productivity of their peoples.

At some brilliant economists' exposure, the fixed earnings foregone by governments with lower impositions on the consumption of power can be offset by corresponding reductions in the national budget especially on social projects for poverty alleviation (since there will be much less poverty). He wonder their engaged citizenry are more productive resources to entrepreneurship, innovations, civic values, etc.

+ While transmission seems to be conducted reasonably well considering the geography and demand imbalances in our archipelagic nation, there could be improved efficiencies. However, this is cubbed with regulatory imposed universal charges covering various inefficiencies, outstanding loans, lack of aggregation of small distribution systems (cooperatives). This part remains non-transparent and treated as a "black box."

Dr. Mortis admits that new independent power producers should be encouraged by removing barriers to entry. Access to long-term power purchase agreements with credit-worthy offtakers will expand in an environment of good governance and free market Retail Open Access.

+ On long-term marginal cost of supply, he [illegible] of DP questioned why our economy continues to be the highest in Asia when our generating plants are generally old. One would expect that the newer ones on fixed assets will be smaller now in present value versus useless replacement costing in the basis of calculation but this is debatable.

On this basis, recalculation of our GDP, as per with the others, would generate another source of cost reduction by P1.80 per kilowatt-hour.

In essence, Dr. Mortis' study supports the recommendation by the Management Associations of the Philippines and other business groups some years ago via the National Competitiveness Council that the cost of power can be reduced by addressing the four low-hanging fruits.

These four steps are mentioned in the five-year Power Development Program and supported in our article last year.

1. Open access must be instituted immediately to achieve a line market competition environment, which will encourage new IPPs to participate in the generation sector, and will lower the cost of funds employed.

2. Restructure the electric cooperatives model to achieve good governance and more economic aggregation. This study is already being initiated by the Institute of Corporate Directors in collaboration with the WB.

3. The high cost of funds is a fact but it should not be further burdened with additional levies, taxes, royalties, since our president's strategic goal is to reduce poverty by generating jobs/livelihood. As mentioned earlier, the revenues foregone by government can be offset by corresponding reductions in the national budget on social projects such as the poverty amortizes (since there will be much less poverty).

A high-level discussion called by government on this generation policy will be welcomed by the private sector.

4. A national energy conservation movement to be imposed by government with private sectors as partners with close monitor (10 percent savings in 10 years) with certain "penalties" for "perks/failures."

This was most streamlined during the time of Secretary Geronimo L. Velasco. Japan employed such a metaphor during the Fukushima nuclear accident, getting 10 percent savings quickly.

Their objective is to maximize the use of existing facilities by reducing wasteful consumption, which will reduce capital requirements, cost of funds and other direct costs.

JICA/ADB will be ready to assist us in this laudable project.

Our recommended four low-hanging fruits for reduced power cost are supported clearly by the IEC Report.

It is also a "given" that for the power sector to be considered world-class, the regulators in the Energy Regulatory Board should be competent in this field, with highest governance values, and with business understanding about its vision/mission of bringing our poverty level in the lowest in the region as a result of competitive power.

Our appreciation to Meralco for undertaking this study by IEC. While it is evident that they are doing a reasonable job, they are getting flak by setting an exhibition of other agencies/factors which are facing considerable problems as mentioned earlier.

Since we should all be prayerful of hope for our economy, and not whiners or negativists, we should work together with our all four initiatives such as those mentioned in this report to give the Filipinos under the leadership of President Aquino the opportunity to take their rightful place in the front of the region.

(The author is chair of the National Competitiveness Council)

Republic of the Philippines
EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Tacloban City

Search for Presidency of Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU)

The Board of Regents of Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU), Tacloban City, formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency is NOW OPEN!

Minimum Qualifications:
1. Must not be less than forty-five (45) years old and not more than sixty-one (61) years as of the time of application;
2. Must be a natural-born Filipino citizen;
3. Must be a holder of an earned doctorate degree from a reputable Higher Education Institution (HEI);
4. Must have a proven track record as administrator (President, Vice President, Dean, Campus Administrator, Head / Department Chair, preferably in the academic sector in public or private, for at least five (5) years;
5. Must not have been convicted of any administrative offense or of any crime involving moral turpitude.

Documentary Requirements:
Interested applicants must submit one (1) set of original and six (6) sets of photocopies of the following documents:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to the Chairperson of CHED:
   HON. PATRICIA B. LICUANAN, Ph.D.
   CHED Chairperson
   4th Floor HEDC Building, C.P. Garcia Avenue
   UP Diliman, Quezon City
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV), signed under oath;
3. Certified true copy of documents in support of the data stated in the CV;
4. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission and Development Goals for the University;
5. Certification/Clearances from the following government agencies, obtained not more than one (1) month from the date of filing of application, indicating that the applicant has not been convicted of any administrative offense or crime involving moral turpitude:
   - Sandiganbayan;
   - Ombudsman (for government employees);
   - Civil Service Commission (CSC);
   - National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
   - Institution/Company where the applicant is presently employed;
6. NSO-authenticated Birth Certificate;
7. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a physician that any accredited government health institutions but not the same institution where the applicant is presently employed;
8. Result of Psychiatric Examination conducted by a physician from a CHED-recognized accredited health institution but not the same institution where the applicant is presently employed;
9. Duly accomplished CSC Form 212, Personal Data Sheet.

Important: Above mentioned documentary requirements must be submitted, properly labeled and organized on or before September 14, 2012 to:

Dr. Libuntad P. Garcia
CHED Regional Office-8
Tacloban City

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Building, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Road,
Tel. Nos.: 439-4700 to 09

Invitation to Bidding
OWWA-CCSP Phase One
(Mini-Piers, Solar Mushroom Pavilions and Wireless Infrastructure)

1. The OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA) intends to apply the cash of OWWA Fee (Welfare Fund) (P12,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the OWWA-CCSP Phase One (Mini-Piers, Solar Mushroom Pavilions and Wireless Infrastructure). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.
2. The OWWA now invites bids for the trading of OWWA-CCSP Phase One (Mini-Piers, Solar Mushroom Pavilions and Wireless Infrastructure). The delivery of the goods and services shall commence on 15 September 2012. Bidders should have completed the [illegible] of similar contracts in 2010 and 2011 equivalent to the [illegible] of the Project, within the Northern Luzon from the date of submission and receipt of bids. Bidders should have completed at least one (1) contract similar to the Project, the description of an equivalent contract is completed in the Bidding Documents, including contractors eligibility requirements, which may be downloaded from the website of OWWA.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from OWWA BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting on 27 August 2012 to 10 September 2012 at the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00).
7. The OWWA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. For further information, please refer to:

Name of BAC Chairman: Ramon V. Mapoy
Name of BAC Secretariat: Atty. Ma. Victoria Isabel Angeles-Mendoza
Address: OWWA Center Building, 7/F Overseas Ave. 7th E., Pasay City
Telephone number: (02) 834-0170
Telefax number: (02) 834-0170
Email address: bac@owwa.gov.ph
Website address: www.owwa.gov.ph

Date: [illegible]
BAC Chairman

OWWA Invitation to Bid (C-5) 08/08

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Artists get to pet–and remake–the Wonder Puppy

Furniture store Dimensione commissions 8 Filipino artists to reinterpret Finish designer Eero Aarnio's whimsical canine creation

By Alec T. Porgues

THE CITIES of Chicago, Seattle and Singapore have done it before: tapping different artists to jazz up animal figures such as cows, pigs and even lions. Even Quezon, this paper's mascot, has been reinterpreted by various Filipino artists.

But it never fails every time, especially when your canvas is so cute and so iconic as this one.

Dimensione, led by owner Bee Chan, recently commissioned eight Filipino artists to dress up the iconic Magis Wonder Puppy.

The eight artists, two of whom are architects, are Kimyat Sychee Igtiqlab; artists Marcus Hiro and Bea Nolasco; Mimi Torres; Pudey del Rosario; Jaguar Design Conference Scenic Sunga and Arnold Austria; Ainsley Valenzuela; Trippkill (Alex Martinez, Whimp (Omar Ramos); and Nemo Agrilla.

Their works, curated by Ronavi Gaston gallery, are now on display at Dimensione's flagship store at Bonifacio High Street.

In case a puppy outfits your fancy, you can take this (or her) home, as all eight are one-of-a-kind artworks are for sale.

Should your favorite be taken, you can still enjoy viewing it up-close. All eight are on display on the store's second level.

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CHAJE Ramos, aka Whimp, draws inspiration from his old local friends and the beautiful memories they left behind.

IT MAY look for science, but Nemo Agrilla's comic book-inspired puppy's "bark" is worse than its bite.

Artists get to pet—and remake—the Wonder Puppy

From page C1

It wasn't only a case of embellishment for embellishment's sake, as each artist drew from his or her strengths and personal experiences, and worked with media he or she was familiar with.

Some even went out of their way to experiment by exploring unfamiliar techniques and materials to enhance their art.

Soraya Sunga and Arnold Austria of Joyous Design totally did away with the original, store-provided plastic puppy and made their own using gauzelike wood.

"But in keeping with the Wonder Puppy's iconic appearance, we were faithful to its shape, size and dimensions," said Sunga. "We're the only non-artists in the group, so we opted not to use color."

Even without a light coat of varnish, the piece easily stood out from the rest of the colorful and flamboyant exercises.

It was more of a three-dimensional representation of the puppy complete with a series of ridges from head to tail, which was pure sculpture, pure wit-fi, so it looked uncannily like the dog that walked through a futuristic X-ray machine in the original "Total Recall."

UNADORNED Wonder Puppy in small, medium and large

ALEX Martinez...aka Puppet...uses Primitivo-based colors

ARCHITECTS Arnold Austria and Sunny Sunga with a colorless, but no-less-loved orange mock-up of genuine wood

HARLEY deResort-type retreat

Wesley Valenzuela

Folk art was the favorite source of ideas for most of the artists, particularly Manila boy Wesley Valenzuela, who derived inspiration from the colorful jeepney of his youth, complete with curved signboards such as Quiapo and Sta. Cruz.

"I was born and raised in Manila's Tondo district," said Valenzuela. "Those were places I frequented, as I learned about life and art in the city's streets while taking up Fine Arts at UST."

As a tribute to the jeepney's ubiquitous omnipresence, winged leaves overseeing an hood, Valenzuela incorporated what seemed like a small pair of wings, saddle and harness into his piece.

The leaves and other traditional markings once associated with the jeepney are but disappearing, as both manufacturers and drivers scramble to modernize but iconic shine, as they try to survive and adapt to the hard times.

Except for the colorful and curved detail, Valenzuela retained the puppy's original white, all the more highlighting the curved and painted add-on which looks both bold and garish like a real jeepney.

But a few went whimsical. Mimi Yuson, drawing inspiration from her work with children's art, studded her Wonder Puppy with hundreds of miniature plastic toy soldiers. To keep her masterpiece from looking flat, she used molten-edge Computer Programming at AMA Computer College.

He said he was not expecting to win and would have been contented to be a finalist because all the other entries were really good.

He used half of his P100,000 prize money for art materials for his finalist, the other half he split between his parents and his one-year-old bank account. He went on to graduate in 2008.

In between jobs as graphic designer for different companies, he persevered in his art and won awards in the Top 10 BCB finalists in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011 Philippine Art Awards (Philip Morris), and Amer's Choice for Excellence in the same award body in 2010 and 2012.

Circular work

In his latest exhibit, "Chasing My Own Tail," which opened at Boston Gallery on Aug. 18, Sy features new mixed media works of ink, acrylic and spray paint on paper, mostly done in comic style, a Renaissance term for circular work of art.

The exhibit conveys the artist's statement that "not every bird that can be seen on the outside is the same as what lies within," a reminder influence by his favorite contemporary Chinese artist, Zhang Xiaogang of the "Bloodline" series of portraits, which were based on Cultural Revolution-era Mao Tse-tung photographs.

The prolific artist has participated in 35 group exhibits and mounted five solo exhibits. He considered his greatest achievement becoming a full-time artist in 2004. "Until an artist has to juggle multiple jobs just to survive, it's not really a full-time job," he said.

Last year, Dexter Sy painted in seven national exhibitions at the Manila Art World Museum in Korea and the Shanghai Exhibition Center in China. He got an artist's

DEXTER C1

Dexter Sy is 'Chasing My Own Tail' in Boston Gallery exhibit

A "TONDO" painting by Dexter Sy; below, Sy (right) with Mario Michel and author

By Alma Cruz Mislar
Contributor

AT THE FIRST Montpagong 80-plus Art Award held in 2004 at Shangri-La Edsa Mall, a finely executed acrylic-and-ink painting titled "Enormous Vehicarro" won the Grand Prize. The judges were no less than Deedee Dalusong, Boston Vinluan and Gerardo Tan.

Influenced by the Brazilian symbolist Gustav Klimt, whose 150th birthday was celebrated in Vienna this year, the Grand Prize winner was a very delicate, airy and painstaking, ultra mosaic of Dexter Sy.

Sy was 25 years old when he won the Montpagong Medal Award. He was taking up Bachelor of Fine Arts, major in Advertising, at Far Eastern University, his second course after

SY RECEIVING the Ramon Orlina trophy during the Montpagong Medal Award for Painting in 2004

Visual Arts

ART TALK BY TAM AUSTRIA

The Bayanihan art exhibit and tour bakuna paid tribute to Angono, the art capital of the Philippines. A spring quarter concert welcomed the cultural citadel of the Rubber embassy to the exhibit. Artist Tam S. Austria gave a talk on the life and works of National Artist Carlos "Botong" Francisco at Balon-Balon Gallery. In photo are Regina Tandoma, Allan Alcantara, Nancy Dionisio, Manuel Baldemor, Rembrandt Nicolas, Austria, Nina Quartianis, Cocoi Hernandez, Michael Bajo, Ina Hufalkad and Mary Dinna Austria.

Gaudinez at Indigo

"Crossing Filipinos," mixed-media by William A. Gaudinez in Gallery Indigo and "With Passion & Purpose," photographs by Rick Rocamora in Pearl Gallery, opens Aug. 29, in Ben Cab Museum, Km. 6 Asin Road, Tuba, Mt. Province. Info: +0919-6557785, 0929-5091964; www.benCabmuseum.org

VISUALS at Lilo, "by Vic Bautista

Watercolorists at Blue + Gray

"Society of Painters in Watercolor" group exhibit runs until Sept. 25 at Blue + Gray Gallery (Cubao Expo). Artists Cristina Cid, GC tel. 9855057, e-mail blueandgray-gallery@yahoo.com.ph). Featured artists are Christopher Aquino, Blanche Arandilla, Vic Balthazar, Angel Cacnio, Mac Cienfuegos, Tad Cuesta, Ping Gervera, Tom Dagooc, Rhino Dimabuyo, Clarence Eduarte, Ryan Fernandez, Celso Gabaris, Alfred Galura, Ronald Jamisola, Bonnang Labuntog, Mudge Lim, Bell Marcelino, Jon Martinez, Nick Mercadejas, Chris Mirang, Ernie Pilotin, Fred Ramirez, Lando Rodriguez, Alex Roxas, Alex Santos and Edu Tadeo.

VISUAL ARTS C3

PIANO AND SALINGOY ARTISTS IN INTRAMUROS

Intramuros Administration administrator Jose Capistrano Jr. (third from left) MCCA executive director Evelio Almosara and lawyer Carolyn Sales of the Office of Atty Gen. Jose Galindo cut the ribbon, opening "Glimpse of Bicol" exhibit of Pancho Piano (fourth from right) and the Salingoy Art Group at the Intramuros Visual Center in Fort Santiago. Looking on are Dean Claudio Almario and Nani Miranda (right) and the Salingoy artists. They are Boyet Moreno, Werner Alejandro, Whom Belarmino, Jimboy Calero, Art Olaya, Rene Dalire, Lenia Dalire, Sur Evaristo, Harriet Gomez, Marivic Gomez, Juanito Peñaro, Richard Perez, Rommel Perez, Lony Peralta, Apples Sabino, Peter Sabino, Bobi Rayala, Jing Sta. Maria, Lea Sinsa and Wenie Baloso. Sponsors are It's More Fun in the Philippines DOT and Mega Miles in the World. Exhibit runs until Aug. 31.

Aljo Pingol draws from folk motifs in 'Bubay Pinoy'

THE NEOCOMPETITIVE art of Antonidoy Jorge "Aljo" Pingol is gaining recognition. Lauded for his sense of classical composition, lately his work referencing Francisco Goya and Rembrandt van Rijn and Marc Chagall's. Pingol demonstrates a myriad of styles and movements, from surrealism to primitivism, to a sad sense of the idyll.

Always old, he addresses folk motifs. The boundaries of his works is, after all, tropical grays with recurring images of the Philippine countryside and scenes of rural preoccupation.

It is Pilipinas Recoleto, the his latest solo show a entitled "Bubay Pinoy," which depicts Philippine life, dreams and aspirations.

A fine Arts product of the University of Santo Tomas, Pingol makes his considerable experience in illustration, advertising and animation (having been an animator at the Kroonwalo Animation House) to bring his folk-figurative subjects to life.

His works are a brilliant collection of portraits, landscapes and genre pieces that are riddled with playful surrealist tendencies and laced with an innocent sense of humor.

The artist has been recognized numerous times for his work. He placed second in Tourism Ever Philippines open poster competition and first in the Far East Bioengineering Company's National Christmas Card Painting Competition.

He is also a founding member of the Concrete Group of Artists in San Juan, alongside barrymet Ang Ay-ramel Garcinda Jr. Dominic Dulay, Edwin Tee-Hayes and Jerry Morada.

"Bubay Pinoy" will run at the Galeria Joaquin Roberto, Aug. 28-Sept. 3, with an artist's reception on Aug. 29 at The Atrium of The Podium in Ortigas Center.

Galeria Joaquin Roberto is at Unit 3G2-13, Tower 2-3, The Podium ABS Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City; tel. 632-634-7904; e-mail podium.galleries@gmail.com.

Visual Arts

Yap at Big & Small

"The Coming of Spring: Prelude to the Third Republic," featuring paintings by Rodney Yap opens on Aug. 28, at Bleeker Big & Small gallery (#47, Brgy. A. Bonifacio, Mandaluyong; tel. 6213128, 6883532, 0917-4483697; e-mail manolo@gmail.com; http://bleeker.com.ph).

Multimedia exhibit at CSB

"Kosa Nostra: A Multimedia Exhibition," by the graduating students of De La Salle College of Saint Benilde runs until Sept. 4 in Gallery de las Casas (3/F, Student Center, 720 San Luis St., Malate, Manila; tel. 5217113, e-mail gallerydelascasas@benilde.edu.com).

The graduating students are Dero Marcos, Aviel Lopez, Matthew Reyes, Rose Dorine Ferrer, Paul Arcilla, Carlos Bonifacio, Paolo Nicolo Cano, Anne Magpali, Hannah Canda, Erickfrogada, Dale Obligado and Kevin Sanchez.

Mendiendo at Alliance Française

"Mirth Eye," a collection of 30 stationery paintings by Ruben Mendiendo opens Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m., in Alliance Française de Manille's Total Gallery (2316 Leonor Barrios St., Bel-Air 2, Makati; tel. 8851644, 8887388; e-mail culturel@alliance.ph; www.alliance.ph). It runs until Sept. 25.

His paintings capture aspects of life in Baguio and environs, from flowers and landscapes to special places, scenes and others.

Standard Chartered holds photo contest

Standard Chartered Bank is holding the Explore by Travelers Eyes 2012 nationwide photography competition in celebration of its 140th anniversary. The contest highlights the bank's commitment to the community through its Seeing is Believing program, a global campaign that tackles avoidable blindness. The winning images will be purchased off; proceeds will be donated to the program. Entries should be submitted by Sept. 1 at Suite 2212, 6/F, Design Plaza, Ortigas Center, St., Bel-Air 2, Makati. E-mail captions.ing_boatmen_philippines@sc.com and view standardchartered.com.ph.

Macea photo contest

Winners of the 1st Macea Photography Contest will be awarded on Aug. 30, 2:30 p.m., at The Gallery Greenbelt 5, Makati. Photos from online hosting Makati boutique and coffee. The contest is awarded to Makati City, Ayala Land, Inc., Makati Commercial Estate Association, Inc. (Macea).

Malto at Picasso Boutique

Mari Mendiz will reveal at the Picasso Boutique Serviced Residences | 11/F, P. Lorenzo St., Barrio Hidalgo, Makati City; tel. 8813210 to 11, 0927-2128888) the exhibition, "The Colors of Black," before keynotes by Marco Ruben Malto II, marking Sept. 6. Malto, a professor of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, attempts a distillation of the sounds, people and landscapes of Bandhal in Bihar. Exhibit runs until Oct. 21.

Art toys at Coffee Bean

Vinyl Art Toys by BrandFriends designers are on view at the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf Rockwell branch as part of the coffee shop's Taste Series. "Boxed Gun: Contemporary Art Appreciation by BFE."

GOZUN MOUNTS NEMOY AND CORY PHOTO EXHIBIT
The exhibit, "Homage to Sen. Ninoy Aquino (Aug. 21, 1983) and President Cory Aquino (Aug. 1, 2009)," Brad's Anniversary," featuring photos by Romeo Rubio "Boy" Ramos Gozun (r., opened recently. Present in the photo: (sitting, l-r) Ruthie Bulaklak's of Pug-King Food; Rotary Club Director; 1990 governor Rufino "Tonoy" Pelo (right) Rt. Susana Robert Young; art collector Jose Pamaghayan of Rotary Club Makiman, Diliman, QC. DOTSO: It is on view until Aug. 31 at Petron Megaplaza (5/F, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati; tel. 8985-691 to 97).

THE AUTHOR with the artist and two of his "monkey" at right, "Extra ordinary"

Dexter Sy is 'Chasing My Own Tail' . . .

From page C2

resident at Ateneo International Open Air Museum Residency and Hasola Art World Museum.

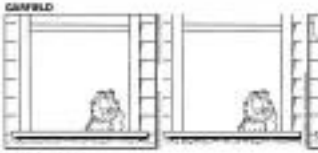
He is set to narrate solo shows this year at Hasola Art World Museum, and group shows at Contemporary Hong Kong Art Bay, Hasola Art, Bela-Café Museum and Boston Gallery in Devonshire.

Exhibit runs until Sept. 4.

The author is senior VP of Bella Gervasi Design Company, firm and executive director of Manongsong Model Art Foundation, Inc. MMAF is accepting entries to its 2012 Manongsong Art Competition on Sept. 10-11 at Lopez gallery, Sherbrooke, Cubao, QC. This year's theme of the competition is, "Ang Pangarap kong Bayan (My Dream of a Nation."

E-mail author at adrianrobat@gmail.com. Visit www.manongsong.com and https://www.facebook.com/pages/Manongsong-Art.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



A. UPPH BY ED ARCIA

PUGAD BABOY BY PAL LARGO

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVE MOTS BY ELIZABETH MCDONALD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

SEIN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): Your daily worry seems to center on one of the writers made with other responsibility to the point of tension, anxiety, reactions and fifth. Thoroughly consider this. Therefore, start taking strategy action!

TAURUS (April 21 to May 21): You seem to be overwhelmed by your many responsibilities you will basically you want to expand your world, so you tend to escape from your daily routine and you want to learn something new.

GEMINI (May 22 to June 21): Communication and shared property, loans, debt and reimbursement might be difficult and complicated. Be careful not to sign anything you don't understand. Do not take on more than is allow others dealing with others. This is a good thing. You usually can do this.

CANCER (June 22 to July 23): Because the Moon today is in a very romantic and style, you will have to go more than to allow others dealing with others. This is a good thing. You usually can do this.

LEO (July 24 to Aug. 23): Focus on getting your work done today. Make lists and responsibility and balance with your time. You have a great sense of reason and accurate personal time.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23): Communication about and your might be serious today. Because they involve discussions of work, education and the care of kids. It goes with discussing.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 to Oct. 23): A friends relation, perhaps a creative, will play a strong role in your life today. You have to show that person between and respect because that's part of your job.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 22): Your ability to communicate today is quite good, which means you are really picky that others don't agree with you. Be careful not to be too critical.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 to Dec. 21): You may have some very sensitive about financial matters today. Sometimes we have to be more careful with our money. You may have to be more careful with your money.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The Moon is in your sign today, which makes you a bit more emotional than usual. Unfortunately, it also attracts a lot of upset feelings from others to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Work alone is behind the scenes today. Because you're a bit more emotional than usual, you may be more sensitive to criticism. Don't take it personally.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It is popular day! Others will be with others, especially in group situations with them, and important matters, especially when things are hectic.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku By Ron Orp

	5		9		1		3	
6	9						1	7
		1		2		8		
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Difficulty Level ★

Answers to previous puzzle

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Countdown ender
6 Cinematic opener
10 "Jolly, Jolly"
14 Ship's bell
15 Ice cream holder
16 Ice cream cone
17 Cavity
18 Lamb's pen
19 Stuffing
20 Chief executive
21 Runs
22 Muffin topping
23 Beverage
24 Ice cream
25 Eating
26 Lab
27 Make a fist
28 Decorate
29 Ice cream shop
31 Ice cream portion
32 Jack-in-the-box
33 Tree-trimming time
37 Trash receptacle
42 Covered with a
43 Wedding vows
44 Wedding vows
45 Ice cream holder
46 Ice cream mess
47 Sleeper
48 Ice cream
49 Ice cream
50 Photographer's cousin
51 Ice cream
54 Tool sharpener
55 Tiger, zebra
57 Ice cream
58 Kid stuffer
59 Ice cream serving
60 Ice cream
61 Ice cream
62 Photographer's gizmo
63 Tree trim

DOWN

1 Shopping mall
2 Lawn
3 Ice cream
4 Ice cream holder
5 Cemetery figure
6 Lawn
7 Ice cream
8 Ice cream
9 Ice cream
10 Ice cream holder
11 Bake
12 Cookie jar item
13 Ice cream
14 Ice cream
15 Cookie
16 Muffin top portion
17 Bake
18 Jewellery store or
19 Driving test
20 Bake
21 Ice cream
22 Headache
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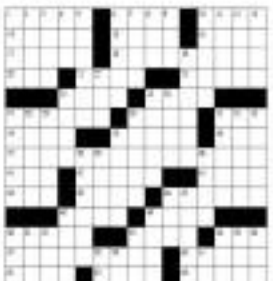
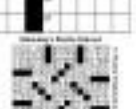


Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



BEDSIDE READING

What books are they reading?

CIELITO HABITO

CIELITO HABITO
Former economic planning secretary; Op-Ed columnist ("No Free Lunch")

These are the books currently or my bedside for leisurely reading:

1. On top of my pile is a small book I picked up at an airport somewhere, by Gerald R. McDermott, titled "The Bible as Pocket Guide to World Religions (What Every Christian Should Know)," as I've been keen to understand the subtle (and little and how they all relate to one another, especially what we all have to contribute.

2. I've recently returned to reading Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner's "Freakonomics," which I never got to finish the first time around, for its out-of-the-box perspective on everyday economics.

3. I'm also reading "The Best of Elmo and Dolarian's The Morning Dash Top 10," which my daughter gave me for my birthday, as the duo's radio program has been part of my morning ride to work for many years; it gives me the chance to exercise my daughter muscles once in a while.

RAMON FAROLAN
Retired major general of the Philippine Air Force; Op-Ed columnist ("Morelle")

I am reading "A Bright Shining Lie" by Neil Sheehan and "Victor" by Thomas E. Ricks.

We learn more from blunders than from victories. Vietnam and Iraq represent two of the greatest examples of hubris and incompetence. Both were disasters for America.

Instituto Cervantes pays tribute to Luis Buñuel

LUIS Buñuel ©

INSTITUTO Cervantes de Manila and the Mexican Embassy in the Philippines pay tribute to the achievements of Spanish director Luis Buñuel by showcasing a retrospective of his cinematic creations every Saturday for the whole month of September.

Titled "Luis Buñuel in Mexico," the special lineup explores the work of the film director considered one of the greatest of all time.

Spanish-born Buñuel collaborated with Salvador Dalí on his first film, "Un Chien Andalou" (An Andalusian Dog), and his films have dazzled moviegoers ever since. He fled to the US during the Spanish Civil War and moved to Mexico at the late '40s, where he lived and worked until his death in 1983.

All screenings (in Spanish with English subtitles) will be held at Instituto Cervantes' Salón de Actos every Saturday, 2 p.m.

The film cycle opens Sept. 1 with "Nazarín," a humanistic study of the fall of Catholicism. It won the Grand Prix International at the 1959 Cannes Film Festival. The movie follows the story of a priest attempting to live a pure and honest life entirely according to Christian principles but he discovers himself more and more the victim of condescending him, and the Church itself is appalled by him.

Screening on Sept. 8 is the 1951 drama film "La Hija del Engaño" (Unexpected of Deceit), about a father who abandons his daughter after his adulterous wife accidentally orders him that their daughter is not his.

Showing on Sept. 22 is Buñuel's critically-acclaimed "La Bestia Viaja en Tumba" (Illusion Travels by Automat). Incredibly photographed by Raúl Humberto Infante, the movie is a series of bullfighting images, each followed by non-sense cutscenes while taking their last ride on the Mexico City public transit system.

The film cycle concludes on Sept. 29 with "El Gran Calavera" (The Great Madcap). Unlike most of Buñuel's films (dramatic and tragedy), "The Great Madcap" belongs in the genre of comedy. It follows the story of a profligate rich man and his money-grubbing family.

Admission to all the screenings is free on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call 5265462 or visit http://manila.cervantes.es.

Instituto Cervantes de Manila is at 855 UN. Ermita St., Ermita, Manila.

"NAZARIN"

New York Writers Workshop founder Tim Tomlinson holds Manila clinics

TIM TOMLINSON, co-founder of the New York Writers Workshop, has been in the Philippines giving readings and conducting writing workshops this month.

Co-author of "The Portable MFA in Creative Writing," Tomlinson introduces an array of inventive techniques and exercises in his workshops to guide students and writers in narrative writing, whether in the craft of creating characters, establishing a setting or re-imagining a subplot.

Apart from "Who Are You, Character, Mom, Women in Fiction and Memoir" and "Where Are You Setting in Fiction and Memoir," the workshops and readings were held successively on Aug. 13 at the Ateneo de Manila University; Aug. 3, De La Salle University; and Aug. 6, 8, 10, Filipino Heritage Library.

Tomlinson joined the Iowa magazine writers in a night of readings and conversations at Silliman University on Aug. 11.

Since 1995, Tomlinson has been giving lectures and running workshops. He has taught in the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, Singapore, Malaysia, China and the Philippines. He is currently completed a series of workshops with New York University Shanghai, Global Liberal Studies division.

Tomlinson writes fiction, poetry and nonfiction. His stories have appeared in international magazines, journals and anthologies, both print and online, such as Asia Writes, New York Quarterly, Missouri Review, Gettysburg Review, Salt River Review, South American Review, Manilala Journal, Bamboo, and the anthology "Going Inland Fast" (Manila: Books).

The Master of Suspense's dark side: Hitchcock and his leading ladies

By Amanda Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE LEGENDARY Anglo-American director Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) logged a total of 53 films, from "The Pleasure Garden" (1924) to "The Family Plot" (1976). He has been the subject of numerous biographies, the latest of which was "Alfred Hitchcock: A Life in Darkness and Light" by Patrick McGilligan (Harper Perennial, New York, 528 pages).

Hitchcock was born to a staunchly Catholic but intense family: "The Hitchcocks had a number of priests in the family, including a nun, clergymen were in and out of the house, drinking, singing, laughing, and making mischief."

The future director was a Jesuit product (St. Ignatius College in London), and heard Mass every Sunday. But his Catholicism did not prevent him, much later, when he was living in Hollywood, from eating meat on a Friday in a step which was considered daring then.

In fact, he was often in trouble with the censors, and at least one of his films was cited "B" (Morally Objectionable in Part for All) by the Catholic Legion of Decency.

I remember that, during the 1960s, seeing a movie in which "B" was a cause for audience uniform, and we had to go to confession.

Hitchcock made a name for himself in the silent era and, unlike other directors, successfully adjusted to the talkies.

His memorable films include "The Lodger," "Likelihood" (also known as a small town in a studio flick), "The 39 Steps," "Sabotage," "Spellbound," "I Confess," "Strangers on a Train," "Dial M for Murder," "The Man Who Knew Too Much" (a black-and-white film during the 1930s, remade in color during the 1950s), "Rear Window," "To Catch a Thief," "Vertigo," "North by Northwest," "Psycho" and "The Birds."

Autocratic director

Like most directors, Hitchcock was autocratic, showing his official family hand, making all the decisions, dictating the camera angles, suggesting costumes for his leading ladies, reviewing scripts—to the indignation of the writers, some of whom were prominent novelists like Raymond Chandler and Evan Hunter.

He had a passion for blondes, and so his stars, although not all were blonde, were known as "Hitchcock's blondes."

These included Ingrid Bergman, Joan Fontaine, Grace Kelly, Kim Novak, Vera Miles, Shirley MacLaine (a doctor girl Hitchcock launched to stardom), Doris Day (the Miss Sweet Sauce, Jimmy Stewart's wife in "The Man Who Knew Too Much") and Tippi Hedren.

Hitchcock adored the beautiful Kelly (as did everyone on the set), and when she left Hollywood for the fabulous Princess Grace of Monaco, he was never the same. In "Marnie," Kelly agreed but, alas, had to back out because of an outcry from the people of Monaco.

Day ("The Man Who Knew Too Much") and Andrews ("Torn Curtain") were disliked by Hitchcock left them alone during the shooting, and did not give them enough direction. Dirk Vitch simply shrugged his shoulders, and said they were doing all right.

With the glamorous Novak, however, Hitchcock let go of his paternalizing instructions because of her difficult dual role in "Vertigo."

But, short and homely, the director had one thing in common with and soulmate Alma Reville, and afterward maintained that he was impotent. And so everyone was surprised when he and Alma had a daughter. They had an affair. The diaries left biographers metaphorically scratching their heads.

Real birds

Leigh was dead after 20 minutes of "Psycho," leaked on the terrifying shower scene. But she gave the director his only Oscar, and was nominated for Best Supporting Actress.

After seeing the movie at the old Galaxy Theater in 1998, I remember being thrilled by the voice of Hitchcock on the lobby's sound system exposing everyone not to reveal the ending.

A decade in Manila that year (when it was still an all-male college!), a scene was passed around to class. And when you opened it, you read Anthony Perkins saying the murderer in "Psycho."

A classic quote.

Hitchcock was always falling in love with actresses, usually in a hammer-and-tongs way. He was a heavy drinker. He suspected "The Birds" with bushes that a crowded broke out. The director got the best for the mannequin model, preposterous hair, and was refuelled.

Whether it was because of this or some other reason, Hitchcock used real birds (with the trainers avoiding lye) in a key sequence in which the gulls attacked the lead actress. "Still, one of the birds chased my eye and that did it," the bespectacles quotes Hedren as saying. "I just ran and cried."

Fifty years later, Hitchcock and Hedren are in the news again. There is a TV movie, starring well-known actress, about their relationship. And Hedren herself recently recounted her experiences to the hysterical Hollywood, Sabra Brigades.

A blast from the past.

Alfred Hitchcock: A Life in Darkness and Light" is available in selected Power Books branches (Greenhills, Shangri-La, Alabang, Trinoma) and National Book Store (Glorietta 1, Greenhills). It may also be ordered at *Fully Booked*, tel. 8587000.

'Potted Potter,' parody of 'Harry Potter,' comes to Manila

POTTED POTTER, "the hit New York show, will run in Manila from Aug. 28 to Sept. 2 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, for 10 shows only.

Written by Daniel Clarkson & Jefferson Turner, "Potted Potter" features actors Jesse Briton & Gary Thurston. Directed and choreographed by Richard Hurst.

Playing to sold-out houses all over the world, "Potted Potter" takes on the ultimate challenge of condensing all seven Harry Potter books (and a real-life game of Quidditch) into 70 hilarious minutes.

The fantastically funny show features all your favorite Potter characters, a special appearance from a live-breathing dragon, endless cameos, brilliant songs, ridiculous props and a generous helping of Hogwarts magic.

Created by double Olivier Award Best Entertainment nominees Daniel Clarkson and Jefferson Turner, the show is a must-see for Potter addicts and a great introduction to the series for anyone who's ever wondered what all the fuss is about.

Even if you don't know the difference between a Horcrux and a Hufflepuff, "Potted Potter" will make you roar with laughter.

The roaring production is composed of Jesse Briton and Gary Thurston.

"Potted Potter" in Manila is produced by Leichtbier Theatrical Productions, Potted Productions and Cuisses in Manila.

Tickets are sold at Ticketworld, tel. 8915999, or www.ticketworld.com.ph.

GARY Thurston and, below, Jesse Briton

OMF Literature to join book fair

OMF LITERATURE will join the Manila International Book Fair from Sept. 12 to 16 at the SMX Convention Center.

On sale will be:

- Palanca award-winning author Elmer D. Cheng's "What, Me Heroic?"—a book for the recently retired or those about to retire and learn they can gracefully enjoy the new phase of their lives;
- "Travels Incognito," by Hector Hidden, the sequel/companion to "Travels Abroad," featuring inspiring stories from travelers in the urban poor communities of the Philippines;
- "Giving Up Is Not an Option," by William R. Lucas, Ph.D. of the "Thinking Biblically" series, the book talks about God's sovereignty in the lives of individuals, nations and the world;
- "Unanswering Happiness and Hard Work," by Vic Medina Cabrera, a practical guide answering 101 questions;
- "Leveraged Kingdom Risk," by Ronald Watkins, a guide for young adults who are still looking for love.

Also on sale will be the Filipin children's titles:

- "Pinoypinoy Plato Ule Day," by award-winning author and illustrator Robert Magtoto. It shows kids that the greatest adventures can be found when they least expect it;
- "Boom, Bang, Bang!," by Mabel Maldivian-Kalaudalan, which shows how to get along with people;
- "Ibu Dibbi," by Jessa Pagulo, the second book in the "Little Ibu" book series, which teaches kids how to develop manners in a fun and educational way;
- "Mga Kuwentong sa Tito Dok 13", Dawee Rafols ang mga Dawee" by Rolanca Vital of Tanay Luis Gonzalez.

- "Ubi Mayo 14: A Flood of Kindness," by Grace D. Cheng, the last book in the best-selling "Ubi Bisaya" series.

OMF Literature books are at *National Book Store, Philippine Christian Book Store, Answer Books* and *Fully Booked*.

OMF LIT Booksbop is at Jesse Avenue, Mandaluyong; 5 Ramona St., Cubao, Quezon City; 5M City San Fernando, Pampanga; Bonifacio, Cebu; 2/F Robinsons, Legaspi & Dau, and Greenhills 2, Manila.

Argentine Jorge Canale's art branches out to the Philippines in 'Rizoma'

By Lito B. Zulueta

ARGENTINE ARCHITECT-artist Jorge Canale has attempted to put on canvas the "rhizomatic" philosophy of French philosophers Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, unwittingly pairing the free-flowing ambience of the visual arts with the rigid, highly hierarchic and controlled discipline of architecture.

The result is "Rizoma," collage on mixed-technique works, which will be exhibited starting Aug. 31, as part of the Director's Choice series of the Ayala Museum.

Canale, who is also a writer, visited his "Rizoma" area in 2009. He drew the inspiration from the Rhizome concept developed by Deleuze and Guattari in their book "A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia" (1980), a key reading in university courses in Poststructuralism and Postmodernism.

"Rhizome" and "Rhizome" are neologisms, or new philosophical concepts, that the philosopher Deleuze (1925-1995) and psychoanalyst Guattari (1930-1992) developed together to combat what they perceived to be the closed and authoritarian bent of Modernism.

"We call a 'plateau' any multiplicity connected to other multiplicities by superficial underground systems in such a way as to extend the rhizome," they wrote in "A Thousand Plateaus." "We are writing this book as a rhizome. It is composed of plateaus."

Rhizome, to them, is different from a tree, a tree is a horizontal stem, a root or tuber such as ginger and potato, usually underground, where stems cannot be located.

Deleuze and Guattari contrast the rhizome with "arborescence," another botanical term that denotes hierarchic growth, from roots to trunk, branch and leaf.

According to Deleuze and Guattari, arborescent mode of thought characterize the grand narratives or hierarchic and closed systems of capitalist, modernist thought.

Rejecting such grand narratives and arborescent thinking are rhizomatic ways of thinking, which are exploratory, tentative perhaps, and not linear(s or totalitarian.

'Tired of trees'

"We're tired of trees," write Deleuze and Guattari. "We should stop believing in roots, roots and radicals. They've made us suffer too much. All of arborescent culture is founded on them, from biology to linguistics. Nothing is beautiful or lasting or political aside from underground stems and aerial roots, adventitious growths and the wind."

JORGE Canale

Deleuze and Guattari wrote that arborescence has dominated Western thinking. It is hegemonic and centralizes hierarchies and "grand narratives."

Canale virtually metaphors the rhizomatic approach through collages and mixed media. According to the "Rizoma" notes, the series is "an anthology of multiarmed(ed) and highly democratic structures. The works attempt to reflect this perennial thought in the chaotic landscape and multiage of the collage method."

The abstract works, at first blush, seem to emphasize the acrylic drip technique, recalling Jackson Pollock. They seem to make room too of the brush.

Paradoxically, however, the dripping appears to have resulted in a very controlled flow of paint on the canvas.

In the face of the rather scant brushwork, the works also seem to have employed splashing and "wandering." That is, making up with lapis so as to plot the typography of the colors and lines.

We can sense that the "Rizoma" series both evokes and embodies an ecological spirit. In exploring nonlinearities, Canale appears to have drawn the rhizomes and tubers (biomorphers, starting and ending everywhere and nowhere. He seems to be making a humanistic statement warning against the destruction of the environment.

Of course, this is a conjecture since "Rizoma" is divided in post-modern philos-

"ST 1," "ST 4"

"ST 11"

ophy as essentialism and also a grand narrative.

Paradoxes

Two paradoxes may be drawn from the exhibit.

First, in exploring the artistic dimensions of rhizomatic thinking, Canale seems to be challenging the highly controlled "arborescent" inspired architecture, in which designing must recognize formal rules and hierarchies.

Second, in mounting his show in the Philippines, Canale accidentally—or is it advertently?—may be making allusions (the postmodernists would say "coherencing") to the physical authoritarian history of Argentina and the Philippines, which was characterized by the building of grand edifices, grand myths, and "grand narratives."

It is no accidence that, for the Western media, the most famous Argentine is Evita Peron and the most famous Filipino is Imelda Marcos.

Canale was born in 1948. His works have been exhibited at Buenos Aires Modern Art Museum; Modern Art Museum of Rio de Janeiro, the VIII and X Bienal (en Cuadrado-vation) Biennials of Graphic Arts; Americas Graphic Arts Biennial of Colombia; Dimitrovgrad International Exhibition of Artwork (Philand); Latin American Industrial Design Exhibitions; and '84 Critics Seminar of the International Association of Art Critics, among others.

Before his Philippine exhibit, Canale has been exhibited at Shafer Hi Museum in Houston; National Gallery of Indonesia; and La Lanna Fine Art Gallery in Thailand.

"Rizoma" will be opened by Argentine Ambassador Joaquin Daniel Green on Aug. 31, 6:30 p.m., in Arthitipico, Ayala Museum (Makati Avenue cor. De la Rosa Streets, Makati City).

The exhibit, which will run until Sept. 30, is organized by Alfio Morale (23/L, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center Makati; tel 5413179-71, 0927-2749488; e-mail ale.morale@yahoo.com) and the Embassy of the Argentine Republic.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto S. Velarde

ABC Family greenlights J.Lo drama

LOS ANGELES—ABC Family has given the green light to "The Fosters," series pilot from Jennifer Lopez's production company about a lesbian couple and their diverse family. AP

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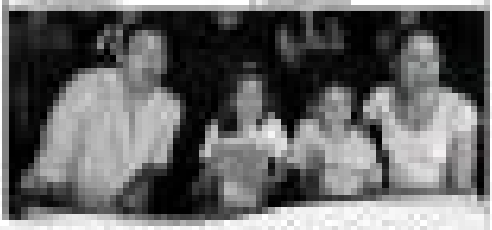

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NORA Aunor in "The Woman"

Pinoy indie up against int'l masters in Venice

ROME—The Venice film festival, which starts next week, showcases the best of Hollywood and fresh talent from around the world. Among the 18 contenders for the coveted Golden Lion award is "Imagenation" by internationally acclaimed Filipino filmmaker Brillante Mendoza. The movie, about a Bajau orchestra, is up against "Spirit Mia," by Olivier Assayas, France; "At Any Price," Ramin Bahrani, Britain/USA; "Bella Addormentata," Marco Bellocchio, France/Italy; "La Cinquieme Saison," Peter Brosens and Jessica Woodworth, Belgium/France/Netherlands;

"Lemale Et Ma Charbal," Rama Burshtein, Israel; "E Stato Il Figlio," Daniele Ciprì, France/Italy; "Un Giorno Speciale," Francesca Comencini, Italy; "Pietà," Kim Ki-Duk, South Korea; "Superman," Xavier Giannoli, Belgium/France; "Paris," Nina Ko-Jak, South Korea; "Outrage Beyond," Takeshi Kitano, Japan; "Spring Breakers," Harmony Korine, Unit. "To the Wonder," Terrence Malick, USA; "Ladies de Ultimi Soldi," Antonio Pisano/Gabriele Salvatores, Italy; "Reality," Matteo Garrone, Italy; "Superstar," Xavier Giannoli, Belgium/France; "Paradise: Hoffe," Ulrich Seidl, Austria/France/Germany; "Ginostra," Gianfranco Rosi, Italy/France; "Bella Addormentata," Marco Bellocchio, France/Italy; "La Cinquieme Saison," Peter Brosens and Jessica Woodworth, Belgium/France/Netherlands; "

Shamcey sees herself in young beauty queen

By Armin Adina

SHAMCEY Supsup sees herself as a young Bicolnhing Pilipinas beauty, who will represent the country in the 2012 Miss International pageant in Warsaw, Poland.

Supsup, third runner-up in the 2011 Miss Universe pageant held in Brazil, said she and 2012 Bb. Pilipinas Int'l runner-up Elaine Kay Moll had a lot in common, especially during the early part of their pageant lives.

"In fact, Kay wasn't really facing herself—just like me before. I was very much of my younger self in her. This is why I feel compelled to help her," Supsup told the buzz-ness during Moll's sendoff party at the Gateway Suites in Quezon City last week.

Leaving today

Moll is set to leave for Warsaw today, the pageant will be held on Sept. 14.

Supsup continued: "She didn't know how to put on makeup. We taught her and ... fortunately she's very open to advice, never took it the wrong way. I think she knew that we were really just concerned."

She was given pointers in the 5-foot-11 tall Moll, Supsup said...the height, the figure, the face. "She's very striking, on stage. And I'm always telling her I bet she just has to be confident. She has to believe that she is the best person for the job."

SHAMCEY Supsup (left) and Elaine Kay Moll

Further, Supsup said Moll's decision to use her second name "Kay" for the international competition instead of her first name "Elaine" was a good move. "It helped with the transformation."

Recent decision

When Moll was proclaimed first runner-up in the 2012 Bb. Pilipinas last April, competing in an international contest did not come with the prize. Only those titleholders were declared representatives in global pageants—Miss Universo-Philippines Janine Tugonon, Bb. Pilipinas-International Wenn Jolianda and Bb. Pilipinas-Tourism Eurrien Di-monaisin.

The decision to send Moll to the fourth edition of the Miss Supranational pageant came just three weeks ago, according to Bb. Pilipinas Charities Inc. chief stella Marquez Araneta. "Elaine is a beautiful girl. She could have been one of the three winners. Not that the others were not deserving; it's just that she has many of the qualifications for an international contest," Araneta told the newsmen.

Araneta said the organizers of the Miss Supranational pageant had approached her during the contest's maiden edition. "This was three years ago. Supranational wanted her star to send a delegate," she revealed.

She added: "I'm happy that I decided to join because this is another opportunity for the Philippines to be talked about in different parts of the world."

Moll is just as jubilant about Araneta's decision. "Right now, I'm very happy and really grateful," said the 20-year-old, who used to play basketball for the National University where she is studying Business Management.

"Supranational is more about empowering women," the beauty from Southern Samar explained.

She upped: "Please support me and vote for me online. I'll do my best to make you all proud."

Moll's fellow Bb. Pilipinas queens have generously wowed support.

Said Tugonon, who will be next to the Miss Universe pageant later this year, "I know that when you hunted about this pageant, you were rattled. But I also know you are doing your best. We believe in you."

Sweet, funny

Dimaranan, who will join the Miss Tourism Queen International pageant, added: "We watched you prepare for this pageant. We know how excited you are about this and we are sure that you will do all you can to win. Do not be afraid; you can do it. We are behind you 100 percent."

Schmitz, who is bound for the Miss International pageant, said Moll's being "sweet, funny and happy-go-lucky" would spell success.

(To vote for Moll online, log on to www.missupranational.com/VotingPage.html. The delegate with the highest number of online votes will represent nationally advance to the semifinals.)

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: GREAT HOPE SPRINGS (2D)
1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30 pm
2: THE BOURNE LEGACY
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 pm
3: PEOPLE LIKE US (2D)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45 pm
4: SUPER CLUB
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 pm
5: THE INTERN
12:00, 3:45, 7:30, 11:00 am
6: TOTAL RECALL (2D)
11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 pm
7: THE EXPENDABLES 3
12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 pm

GREENBELT 5

1: THE EXPENDABLES 3
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 pm
2: TOTAL RECALL
2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30 pm

GREENHILLS 4

1: THE EXPENDABLES 3
1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30 pm
2: TOTAL RECALL (2D)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 pm
3: SKIAL STEP UP
2:00, 4:15, 6:30 pm/8:00, 10:30 pm
4: GREAT HOPE SPRINGS (2D)
9:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 10:45 pm
5: THE BOURNE LEGACY
3:15, 6:30, 7:45, 10:45 pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: TOTAL RECALL
2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:45 pm
2: GREAT HOPE SPRINGS (2D)
2:15, 4:30, 6:30, 8:45 pm
3: THE EXPENDABLES 3
1:15, 4:15, 6:45, 9:45 pm
4: DIARY OF WIMPY KID 3/THE REUNION
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 10:45 pm
5: THE BOURNE LEGACY
12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm

ANIA CENTER CEBU

1: THE EXPENDABLES 2 (3D)
2:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 pm
2: TOTAL RECALL
12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:00 pm
3: CIRQUE HOPE SPRINGS
1:30, 3:30, 5:15, 7:15, 9:30 pm
4: THE BOURNE LEGACY
1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 9:30 pm

MARQUEE

1: TOTAL RECALL
11:55, 1:55, 4:15, 6:30, 9:15 pm
2: GREAT HOPE SPRINGS 2 (2D)/STEP UP
11:55, 1:55, 3:55, 6:15, 8:30, 9:15 pm
3: THE BOURNE LEGACY
12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45 pm
4: THE EXPENDABLES 3
12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15 pm

MARKET! MARKET!

1: TOTAL RECALL (3D)
11:30, 1:15, 3:45, 7:00, 9:00 pm
2: THE BOURNE LEGACY
1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 9:00 pm
3: THE REUNION
11:00, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:00 pm
4: GREAT HOPE SPRINGS (2D)/STEP UP
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 pm
5: THE EXPENDABLES 3
11:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 pm
6: GUNI GUNI
11:15, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 8:30 pm
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: LOYALTY DAY
1:30, 3:30, 5:45, 7:30, 10:00 pm
2: THE EXPENDABLES 3
1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 pm
3: GREAT HOPE SPRINGS (2D)
1:30, 3:30, 5:45, 7:30, 10:00 pm
4: BOURNE LEGACY (IMAX)
12:45, 3:30, 6:45, 7:45, 10:30 pm
5: THE REUNION
12:45, 3:00, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 pm
6: THE BOURNE LEGACY
1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00 pm
7: TOTAL RECALL
11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 pm

ABREEZA

1: THE EXPENDABLES
11:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 pm
2: GREAT HOPE SPRINGS (2D)/STEP UP
12:30, 3:00, 5:00 pm/7:00, 9:15 pm
3: TOTAL RECALL
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45 pm
4: THE BOURNE LEGACY
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30 pm

HARBOR POINT

1: TOTAL RECALL
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 10:30 pm
2: THE REUNION/THE BOURNE LEGACY
9:00, 4:30/4:15, 6:30, 9:00 pm
3: GREAT HOPE SPRINGS
2:30, 4:45, 6:30, 8:30 pm
4: THE EXPENDABLES (2D)
1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:45 pm

For ticket reservations or purchases, text SureSeats to 2800 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com
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For verification, please call 729-7777.
*Reservations open 30 min before cinema. **Reservations open for all Ayala cinemas only.

MOVIE SPECIAL

MALL EVENTS

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August 31/Activity Center

GREENBELT
TOMS and Greenbelt present Tyler Rahnsey
August 28/Greenbelt 5 Fashion Walk

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
ReyEAT Treats Picnic
July 6-September 2

TRINOMA
Toys R' Us Puzzles Speed Challenge
August 27/Activity Center

MARQUEE
MarGrass MarGrowers Mallwide Sale
August 28-September 2/Mallwide

ABREEZA
Gowns & Gadgets Fair
August 27-31/Activity Center

HARBOR POINT
The Wizard of Oz
August 29-September 19
For inquiries, please call 752-1982 or 752-3001 or 62

MALL SPECIAL

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Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2848

Going . . .

From page E1

harnessed to the fullest with the "Shake, Rattle & Roll" franchise. "The living can commit more horrifying things than the dead," she said. "There are more frightening things than ugly monsters."

In this story that mixes the horror episode (demon child) legend with the psychosis/possible hysteria, the played around with "the supernatural, psychological treatise and a dark, gothic atmosphere."

Joining her favorite horror flicks are Jean Antonio Bayona's "Orfanato," Alejandro Amenabar's "The Others," and Paul WS Anderson's "Event Horizon."

But Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining" tops her list. "You don't tell where insanity ends and the supernatural begins. It's a nightmare that doesn't stop. It was inspired by the photographs of Diane Arbus, another artist I admire."

She also loves the films of David Lynch, David Cronenberg and Mary Harron. "Their films have a dream-like, disturbing quality that haunts you long after you've turned off the DVD player."

Online reports insinuated that "Dasal-Gabi" was copied from the Thai film "Shutter." "Only the posters are similar. I haven't seen that film," said E. Imbarquez.

ILLUMINESCER (right) hopes the sound light on the cart of her first commercial film.

Beatboxing . . .

From page E4

married lawmaker, who represents one of the city's districts. Concerned citizens appealed to the Ilocos organization to replace the judge, but their request was ignored.

Sonny had better wake up before things get ugly!

R-day bay

To celebrate his birthday Ogie Alcasid is holding a golf tournament today at the Capitol Hills Golf Club. All proceeds will go to victims of the recent Bendo Bilisan. The Rajonero Foundation.

Afterwards, Ogie will host a get-together for his close friends at Dencio's. The birthday boy is remain silent the "R" rating that he loves. "I'll be Dudes Bilisan," get from the Cinema Evaluation Board.

"After the recent calamity, a feel-good movie like this is what we need," he says. "It's a tribute to the timeless music of 80's."

What can we say about his much talked-about bed scene with Eugene Domingo in the movie?

"It's hilarious because Ege and I were really into it," he quips. "And the choreography is one of the funniest things I've ever done."

Ogie is one person who's out to spread cheer on and off-cam. He may go laughing all the way to the bank for his hosts the cry for help of people all over.

No problem!

Jean P. Sarah Geronimo and Gerald Anderson's budding romance got thwarted. I just know that they won't have "communication problems" since they both are Ellen-tainment. Trust me.

Beatboxing beauty queen

Quoneirich Rehman dreams of becoming a singer someday

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DUN IT! Quoneirich Rehman didn't bag the Miss World title in China, she's still in high spirits.

"The experience was priceless," she says. "I made many friends during my month-long stay in China. Until now, I am still in touch with Miss Colombia, Miss Venezuela, Miss Indonesia and Miss US Virgin Islands."

Doesn't she feel like it was not of a "homecoming queen" since Miss China won?

"I refuse to look at it that way," she says. "Perhaps she was just luckier that day. But I feel a bit disappointed that Gilda's son (Miss Talent, Ahmad) all the girls in the pageant and the viewers thought I would win since I did beatboxing, which was renamed for beauty queens to destroy the talent portion."

Quoneirich has been into beatboxing since high school. "I've always been musically inclined," she says. "In fact, one of my dreams is to become a singer."

Show biz crash, beat

So, is show biz the next stop for her?

"Yup, I'm willing to try hosting," she says. "If I get a chance to act, I hope to be teamed up with Daniel Matsunaga. It's a harmless crush, though. Pero my boyfriend is aware of it."

Her agenda highly of her boss, Jun, a bodybuilder. "He's always been supportive," she beams. "He even served as my trainer to get me in my best shape for the pageant. We have marriage plans already. If and when he proposes, I want it to be extraordinary."

Quoneirich is happy with her "King." So, with or without a title, she will always be on top of the world!

Controversial judge

There was grumbling about the choice of one judge in a beauty contest during the Ilocana held last weekend in a city in Western Mindanao.

The judge, a stunning TV personality, is rumored to be the current love interest of a

BANTOGON E3

OGIE Alcasid

TARA ILLENBERGER (left) directing Lee Pico

Going mainstream not hard, indie says

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FILM editor-turned-filmmaker Tara Illenberger was "pleasantly surprised" to find that moving from indie to mainstream movies wasn't that difficult.

"You have things—about the lack of creative freedom," she said. "But nothing that forced me to didn't change a single thing in the script I wrote."

In 2006, Tara won the special jury prize for her debut film, "Pinatay Ang Magkakalibog," at the 2006 Cinemalaya festival.

"It's a follow-up, she made a thriller and entered it in the same indie fest two years ago. Versatile it is the novel finish but was eliminated," she related.

Its back would have it, Regal picked up Illenberger's script, which eventually became "Ang Huling Cha-Cha Ni Anita," the story of a model (played by Lovi Poe) pushed to the edge of madness by recurring nightmares.

"It could've been an indie film, but now it's in the mainstream," the director said.

No barrier

Her point was that there should be no barrier between the commercial and indie sectors. "The only difference may be in the budget and access to theatrical distribution, but in the end, cinema is cinema, stories are stories," she said. "Regardless of the money and machinery, filmmakers invest blood, sweat and tears in every project."

Old labels and preconceptions have become inaccurate, she pointed out.

The indie movement used to be equated with raw and rough, technically flawed movies. "Now, some indie films are more visually stunning and polished than some commercial movies."

In the same way, mainstream movies were often dismissed as prosaic and lacking in the past. "But now," she said, "some so-called indie films can be complete sellouts, too."

Changing times

She elaborated: "Mainstream producers used to be scared of material that's now said intended at the 'clik.' They've becoming interested in stories that are fresh and experimental."

The mere fact that a Cinemalaya entry like "Kasi, Good" wound up in illegal proved her point, she said. "We see mainstream producers flocking to the Cinemalaya free zone."

Expressing optimism, she said: "Young filmmakers hope that mainstream producers would loosen out of their self-constructed boxes and gamble on projects that either serve pet specters."

New quit

With "Kasi, Good," Illenberger has put a fresh spin on horror, a genre that Regal has

SEEING E2

LEARNING

Joby Chelo Bacal-Fortuno

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bench/ in education

FOR FIVE out of its 25 years of existence, the fashion-plus brand Bench has been our partner in education.

In 2006, we asked couturier-builder Ben Chan to invest in the future of young Filipinos through the Inquirer in Education (iE) literacy program. Since then, Bench has been donating copies of our newspapers to the students of teachers who sign up to read our serial story every September.

Before an audience of newspaper editors and publishers from Europe, South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific at the recent World Young Readers Summit, I talked about Bench. Analyst Melchiane, executive director for young readership development at the World Association of Newspapers and Newspaper Publishers (WAN-Ifra), asked me to share why other newspapers here should manage to keep Bench as a partner. She was curious about why a company that thrives on the fleeting frills and thrills of fashion would choose to sustain a literacy program.

I really didn't have an answer, and the only reason I could think of was one that Simon Sinek, author of "Start with Why," just succinctly as a TED Talk.

"People buy why you do things, not what you do," said Sinek. He also said, "If you talk about what you believe, you will attract those who believe what you believe."

For consumer reasons, iE is different from the traditional newspapers in education (NIE) programs. In other countries, NIE changes teachers a nominal fee for every workshop the newspaper puts together. It also sells to students the educational packs that the paper produces.

EDITOR'S BOARD
Chelo Bacal-Fortuno

iKnew we couldn't do the same here. Our public school teachers cannot afford it. It was also out of the question to ask parents to shell out any more money than they were already spending for their children's education.

I wanted to make our iE activities available to public school teachers and students until I knew I could not pull this off without sponsorship.

Our only hope was to get corporations with CSR funds to see eye to eye. But how do you do that?

Whenever our marketing and advertising sections talked to companies about sponsoring our iE projects, they would always leave the table empty-handed.

"Kids in school kids are not our market," said Ben, when the idea of sponsoring a serial reading program for third and fourth graders was first broached to him.

Good image

A high profile fashion brand, thanks to TV and billboard advertising using top local movie and TV stars as image models, Bench, back in 2008, sold jeans, shirts, bags, shoes, face, hair and body products, among others things, to teens and adults.

In addition to its billboards, Bench's biggest PR coup has been a biannual grand fashion show featuring top movie/TV stars and fashion models in melting ice. Bench models on scrumptious, lunch/joins.

The Bench underwear operation has been the hottest ticket in town and to get one, you'd have to buy so much worth of items from Bench stores. The same may be expected when, as will happen in 2013, the anniversary Bench pop-up Bench Universe on Sept. 13 and 14 at Mall of Asia.

Despite the movie stars in underwear, Bench has an overall good image. But it was true what Ben said. Five years ago, Bench had nothing to its name for promotion. Why would it want to spend its CSR budget on a reading program for fourth graders?

At the time, Bench had just launched its advocacy for the environment. Their drop-ins down and products had a save-the-planet theme. But as did every other team member, thanks to Al Gore and his environment work, the environment was the cause du jour.

I asked Ben if they thought they were really making a difference in that area, and how far were they making a difference, if at all.

We talked about the state of education in the country. It was in shambles, we agreed. We discussed studies with findings that education was a richer out of poverty. I showed him studies about the newspapers in education program in other countries.

I told him I knew they didn't make and sell 3rd and 4th grade and fourth-graders, but those kids would be in their teens soon. If you sponsor their classroom copies, I said, I am sure the Bench brand would remain topmost on their minds as they grow older.

"I consider it an investment," I remember saying to Ben.

He agreed to give it a try and supported our first series, by donating copies of the issues to our four partner schools every Monday for eight weeks.

Feel good

CSR is supposed to be a feel-good proposition, that's all. But I like to think Bench got more bang for its CSR buck that first year.

Every Monday that the series came out, we placed the Bench logo at the top of the story. We stamped "Courtesy of Bench" on page 1 of all issues copies that went out to the schools. We encouraged the kids reading the story in the classroom, doing group work, making art and saying, "Thank you for the newspapers, Bench!" After the series, we published an ad thanking Bench, as well as a wrap-up story.

We invited Bench executives to our office for afternoon tea. We showed them a video of the kids. We gave them a compilation of the series. Our company president, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez awarded Ben a plaque of appreciation.

And when we presented the Bench team with the most heartfelt and useful thank you letters from the students' hands of them. After reading some of the letters, Ben looked up and said, "Count us in for the next series." It was unbelievable we were moved by the sincerity of the letters and the creativity of their young writers.

And that, dear all, was what Ben Chan got in return for his support—something that felt so good it just kept Bench on as a sponsor of our iE program for five years in a row now.

A year after it first came onboard as an iE sponsor,

BEN Chan in a still for the short film "20 Bens"

PUBLIC and private school teachers, some of whom have been loyal partners for four years, will be reading the new Bench iE series "Earth Healers" in their English Language Arts classes starting Sept. 3.

Would Rizal write another sequel to 'Noli me Tangere'?

By Nicel F. Barrios
Contributor

IF DR. JOSE P. RIZAL could have watched "Noli Me Tangere, the Opera," what would he have thought of this new incarnation, produced by Dulaang UP of his novel that played the seeds of a revolution?

Probably, like any author (and he was not just any author), he would have been delighted to have his work given a new form, provided it remained close to the original, and remembered as a vehicle for new generation of Filipinos.

Published in 1887, "Noli Me Tangere" brought to the consciousness of the Filipino that he should not be a slave in his own country and should reclaim his birthright.

Composers Felipe Padilla de Leon, National Artist for Music, wrote the opera—the first full length Filipino musical drama—in 1957. Revised in 2013, it was managed this year to commemorate de Leon's centennial.

Librettist was Guillermo Tolentino, National Artist for Sculpture, who did the Oblation, the best-known symbol of the University of the Philippines, in the Diliman campus in Quezon City.

Performed in the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, named after the playwright, a National Artist for Theater, the recent staging featured dynamic young talents of Dulaang UP.

The audience consisted mostly of students, who were required by their teachers to watch the show. It had been 125 years since the Noli was first published. Generations of Filipino students have read the novel and watched it remastered into a movie, a historical narrative, a ballet, a stage musical and zarzuela.

Many studied Rizal's works in high school and college, students have become familiar with the characters and plot of the Noli (and its sequel, "El Filibusterismo").

But did they understand the nuances of language in this new production? Did they connect with the rhythm of the music, the lyrics of the songs? Did they get a better appreciation of the story, its symbols and meaning? Did they understand that the story remains true today, as Filipinos struggle to search for their soul and identity?

Although some of the dialogues and lyrics were dated and difficult to understand, the youthful audience was familiar with Maria Clara's song "Kay Tamis ng Buhay" (So Inviting Buyo).

Many appeared to be tested by Ibarra's highly charged scenes and moved to tears and spontaneous applause when Crispin (child actor Matthew Ibarrate) sang in his dead mother.

No suspension of disbelief

But one everyone was not in the show. Some young people fiddled with their mobile phones, probably sending text messages or gaming even during climactic sequences. They were impervious to verbal expressions.

It is probably only a matter of time the youth completely misses the significance of the hero's struggle in Rizal's time, of how the Filipino identity was forged through a revolution.

Perhaps, instead of requiring students to watch, educators can find ways to involve the young in the Noli's story and so motivate them to invest time and effort to read and watch because they only want to learn about their history, not just to fulfill a class assignment.

Director Maribel Ilan-Ilanes did it with "Ang Rizal, the Movie," which made Cesar Montano a star. Writer Ambeth Ocampo does it with his popular articles and books about Filipino heroes as ordinary persons with ordinary interests and feelings.

Some of those who watched the Noli opera did get the message that, in the 21st century, the Filipino was, in many ways, not very different from the enslaved Indios of Rizal's time.

The Philippines is supposed to be an independent country but it remains beholden to other countries for its people's livelihood.

Overseas Filipino workers hang up the reasoning which remains consumer- and service-based, while neighboring nations have become highly industrialized.

Colonial mentality is very much part of the Filipino mindset. The social climber Doña Victorina and her husband, the fake doctor Don Tiburcio, have many counterparts in today's society.

The Filipino are caught in the current reading suite of a people with a short memory who never learned from the past and are forever oppressed.

Given the situation, Rizal would probably ask Dr Leon, Tolentino and Guillermo to join him in writing another sequel to "Noli Me Tangere."

Nicel F. Barrios teaches English, Literature and Journalism to students of Colegio de San Lorenzo in Quezon City.

Playgrounds for the MIND

Executive Editor Chay Hofilena
Copy Editor Chaguile Medina

Four Filipinos join The Summit of Genius

THE PHILIPPINES is sending four of its young brilliant minds, all students below the age of 20 from the University of the Philippines Los Baños majoring in Applied Physics, to participate in the Asian Science Camp, considered as the most important scientific encounter in the world for promoting young scientists from all over Asia and the Pacific.

The students are John Keith Velasquez Magali, Sherwyl Aguirre Dagohoof, Noel Angelo Bolaya Villaos, and Ikenda Dayanghirang Olayera. They will be joined by their faculty adviser, Lou Serafica Acosta.

The science camp, also known as "The Summit of Genius," has been held for six years and hosted in a different Asian country every year. The camp is an initiative of a number of Nobel Prize Laureates in the Sciences from eastern Asia who are the chroniclers the goal of creating a platform in locating and promoting the future generation of science in these Asia.

Some 300 young science geniuses from all over Asia are expected to attend the camp to be held in Jerusalem during the last week of August. Israel President Shimon Peres will grace the opening ceremonies on Aug. 26.

Nationwide Kumon 2-Week Free Trial

All parents want the best for their children — be it food, shelter, clothing, and even the best education. Parents even search for various learning opportunities with the hope of preparing them for a successful adulthood.

As parents, you might then be asking, *So what more can I do for my child?*

This coming September, Kumon is providing the opportunity for more and more children to discover and develop their potential and the chance to experience the benefits of having strong academic skills and life skills through the **2-Week Free Trial Campaign.**

According to Ms Jewel Suarez of Cagayan City, the father of Reed John Suarez, a Free Trial Campaign participant and eventually one of the youngest students who completed the Math and Reading Programs, his son was able to develop skills that would aid him in school and that would lead him to future success. He shared, "Even during the Free Trial Campaign, I was amazed with how Reed developed his study habits. He was very focused. He realized that he could do more out of his play time and is now more conscious on whatever work of the subjects — even if it were his favorite cartoon show — and concentrate on his school books."

Similarly, Mrs. Elaine Sarza of Pateros City shares how the future of her daughter, Rubien Prae Sarza, has been carved by her experience in Kumon. She is grateful she did not pass the chance of trying Kumon through the 2-week trial. She said, "Prae started the Kumon Reading program through the free trial. My initial goal for her then was to learn how to read. Did Prae didn't only learn how to read. At an early age, she was able to explore the world of books." Prae would not have experienced the academic advantage she has right now as she has finished both the Math and Reading Programs.

Nonetheless, the Kumon experience doesn't only entail the child's participation in the free trial. As parents choose to take their children's journey in Kumon with the free Trial Campaign in the first step, one of the things that is highlighted is the parents' support and involvement in their children's study. Judge Amirah Mucarimbal of Iligan City, the father of Mohammad Arsian Rahim Mucarimbal, Kumon Philippines' youngest student to date who completed the Math Program at age 5, put in hours and underwent Kumon through the Free Trial Campaign. He shares how this was explained to them when he and his wife, Atty. Myleen, inquired. "Indeed, we have been told that the Kumon Method basically requires parents to be actively involved, considering that worksheet study is carried out daily at home. We learned that in Kumon, home study is essential in nurturing good study habits and progressing smoothly in the program."

Just like the sharing of the three Kumon students, let us give other children the chance to discover big and broaden their horizons. Let us give more children the opportunity to experience the joy of learning in Kumon!

In this 2-week trial, participants will attend four time-days, get Kumon worksheets daily, receive study assessment from a Kumon instructor, and have an individualized study plan, all for free! The campaign is from September 17 to 29. Registration is required and slots may vary per Kumon Center. To inquire now! You may visit **http://ph.kumoneducation.com** for more information or contact the Kumon local office in the following number: **(02) 800-4526, (632) 2361207, 1800-1888-0121 (toll-free).**

CEU signs agreement with UB

TO STRENGTHEN its linkages with different institutions, Centro Escolar University recently signed a five-year memorandum of understanding with University of Batangas to promote exchange and cooperation in all appropriate and agreed academic areas of internship, research and teaching, sharing and dissemination of information, and documentation in areas of mutual interest.

Both universities also discussed possibilities of exchanging students and faculty who aspire to visit/participate in the education program of each institution. Both CEU and UB aim to strengthen their academic systems through benchmarking each other's best practices. This step is to further improve the quality of education that each of the universities are already providing.

Window on Korea collection at Ateneo

THE NATIONAL Library of Korea (NLK) will launch a Window on Korea collection at the Ateneo de Manila University's Rizal Library on Aug. 29 at 3 p.m. The Window on Korea is an initiative by the NLK which "provides up-to-date Korea-related materials on a variety of topics and formats to people for a better understanding about Korea by leading libraries around the world." The Korean Embassy and the Korean Culture Center (KCC) in the Philippines will help in the implementation of the project.

Robotics enthusiasts gather at Claret

ROBOTICS enthusiasts from different schools in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces converged recently at Claret School of Quezon City (CSQC) for the kick-off of the Philippine Robotics Olympiad. The event is sponsored by First in Educational Learning Trends Always (FILTA), with its president and CEO, Mylene Abes. The program started with the inauguration of the CSQC Robotics Laboratory which will be used for the smooth integration of the Robotics Program into the Computer Education Curriculum for both grade school and high school Claretian students.

BRIEFS

GCIC offers personalized English program

GLOBAL City Innovative College at Gorordo's Global City offers a personalized English Program for their students. Classes for the Intervention English Program size have a maximum of 20 students only. The program utilizes quasi-businessmen' activities, theatre workshops for self-confidence, speech drills, games, multi-media interactions and other innovative strategies to fit students objectives. All classes are being handled by selected Lasallian experts with strong background on ESL, TESOL, Theatre Arts, and Literature.

PMA conducts tree-planting activity

PHILIPPINE Military Academy personnel, members of the PMA Ladies Club and representatives from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), Baguio City and Regional Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources planted 200 seedlings of Benguet pines and kalantas, 200 seedlings of bamboo and 50 seedlings of narra/amaranth the military camp's tree planting site. The regular tree planting activities are in support of the National Greening Program (NGP) as mandated under Executive Order 26.

JHS president visits UPHSD

JAPAN Head School (JHS) president Tsutomu Ishizuka recently visited the state-of-the-art facilities of University of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD) at the Las Piñas campus. UPHSD president Anthony Simon Tamayo accompanied the visitor during the site tour.

New UPLB alumni awards

THE UPLB Alumni Association (UPLBAA) is now accepting nominations for the 29th U Alumni Awards this year to include the following new awards: The Outstanding UPLB Alumni Award (TOUA), The Iloilo T. Gonzalez Alumni Service Award, The College Distinguished Alumni Association Awards, and The UPLBAA Multi-Conversion DPLB Family Recognition Award. Any member of UPLBAA may nominate as many qualified alumni as possible in any of the awards using official forms available from the UPLB Alumni Center at Nanta Roscio UPLB Campus. Nominations with all the requirements must be received by the Awards Committee at the UPLB Alumni Center offices not later than Aug. 31. Awarding ceremonies are slated on Oct. 6.

HONOR ROLL

LIMA takes 6th and 8th in Chief Mate Board exam

TWO MARINA of Lyceum International Maritime Academy (LIMA) of Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas (LPU-B), Hezzell M. Manalo Jr. and Fillerson R. Liao Jr. took the top sixth and eighth places, respectively, of the July 2012 Chief Mate licensure examination. The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced that 257 out of 423 passed the test.

Fatima fares well in Pharmacy exams

THE OUR Lady of Fatima University's College of Pharmacy in Valenzuela and Antipolo campuses recently garnered a high score in the July 2012 licensure examination for pharmacists. The Valenzuela campus once again recognized by the PRC as a top performing school, while the Antipolo campus obtained a 100 percent passing mark. The college has been consistently earning a high mark in the survey for the past few years, making it one of the reputable pharmacy institutions today in the country.

Letran HS students grab first place in biz quiz

COLEGIO de San Juanvile Letran high school juniors Mats Teresita Andrea M. Gonzales and Jann Anhao Samaniego-Jumaquel won first place at the International Challenge Business Plan Competition held on July 31 at the Grand Mirage Thomas Wong - Mirage College in Quezon City. Gonzales and Jumaquel bested 90 other participants from different schools nationwide. The pair's winning business proposal is the construction of Gowear Shoe Polish, a shoe polish made of biodegradable materials like banana peels. The two students who represent the Philippines in an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong for the regional competition which will be held on Aug. 29 to 30. The contest was sponsored and hosted by Hello Kapres and Junior Achievement of the Philippines, Inc. (JAPI).

Member Schools

Even scientists suffer from math anxiety

WE FEAR mathematics for many reasons: terrible teachers, learned helplessness, insightful or pressure-inducing parents, society's denigration of deep thought, natural gaps/deficiencies, lack of motivation, failure in examinations, among others.

When I was starting out as a science writer, my professor, Doreen Fernandez, warned me, "Every equation will decrease your readership by half." But in the next breath, she said, "Don't let that stop you. Helpless? Small to be exposed to substantial matters."

Judging from the mail I get, many ill-spirited continue to read this column despite its math and science content.

But I admit to simplifying scientific concepts, and I usually try to describe a phenomenon in words rather than use equations, except for E = mc², whose simplicity, elegance and beauty every educated person needs to be familiar with.

Biologists

I understand, though not always easily, publics with students are filing math (I have them every day). In our transition to K to 12, I was undermined, though disappointed, grade school teachers who are reluctant to teach high school because they are not comfortable with higher math. I understand the dilemma of algebra teachers who do not feel confident to handle geometry, and vice versa.

I have tried to help everyone: math, loans, confront, deal with and see math differently. Failed. I often feel despair.

The feeling got worse when I read the June report in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences." Apparently many scientists experience math anxiety, too.

When biologists Tim Fawcett and Andrew Higginson of the University of Bristol in England studied a database of scientific articles, they found that the more equations a paper had, the less likely it was to be followed up or mentioned in other articles.

These are not run-of-the-mill college researchers but full-fledged biologists, often at the cutting edge of research in various fields, where advanced math is frequently used to model life processes. In the past, biology majors had only been required to take college algebra to fulfill math requirements; now they have to do calculus. And calculus is pretty basic in terms of the math needed to do serious research.

"Increasing the equation density in more than one equation per page more than halves the number of mathematical illiterates," said Fawcett and Higginson.

This was exactly what Doreen meant. She warned me more than 20 years ago about the math fears of the public. Little did we know that even scientists had math phobia.

"Math is getting more and more important because complex biological processes are hard to understand without using math models," Higginson told ABC News. "The problem may therefore be getting worse."

Fawcett said if biologists were turned off by equations, there "no one will perform the crucial experiments needed to test those theories ... prevent[ing] a barrier to scientific progress."

Biotech contest

Five years ago, the first National Biotechnology Quiz Contest for High School was organized by the National Institute for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (NIMBB) of the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, the Biotech Coalition of the Philippines, the Philippine Society for Microbiology Inc., and the Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Society. Regional contests were held around the country to choose the finalists. The national finals were held in March 2008 at the Institute of Soils and Water Management in Quezon City.

This year, the second National Quiz will finally be staged by the Department of Agriculture's Biotechnology Implementation Program and the Philippine Academy of Microbiology. Carolina T. Barbeyta, chair of the first contest, will also head the second, as he held small consults with the National Biotechnology Education Conference for Biotechnology Educators (NCBE) Diliman.

Public and private high schools are invited to join. A written preliminary round will identify at least ten semifinalists for the next round of ends. Three high schools with the highest points will compete in the finals. First, second and third prizes are P50,000, P30,000 and P20,000 each, respectively.

Only preregistered teams or schools can compete in the National Quiz Contest. Send the names of students, school and coach by Sept. 30 to Ms. Eva Cynthia Barbeyta at cbarbeyta@nibb.upd.edu.ph or text to +63917-5251255.

Escudero

I first met Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero III, who passed away recently, a decade ago when I gave a lecture on math to the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education. Escudero listened intently and, after the talk, he offered sensible recommendations, but while grit filling us with cheer all the neighbor.

As chair of the House committee on basic education and culture, Escudero knew the harsh reality of improving education in the country. Instead of grandstanding, making grandiose promises never to be fulfilled, he was humble enough to listen to other people's ideas and even seek some.

Sometimes known as Senator Sonny and Representative Sonny, he was a true lawmaker, a statesman and academic.

Unlike many politicians with links to entertainment or dynasties, Escudero was done of the College of Veterinary Medicine at UP Los Baños and the minister of food and agriculture under mid-1980s.

I will always remember him as a man of wisdom, humility and cheer. My sincerest condolences to his loved ones.

E-mail the author at theobaldjoe@gmail.com.

National Biotechnology Quiz to be held on Nov. 22

Children of Meralco employees recognized for excellence

One Meralco Foundation awards 180 MVPAAA Grants

Maxene and Zachary Pangan in one of their bonding moments.

Meralco President and CEO and One Meralco Foundation Vice Chairman Oscar S. Reyes puts a medal on a student.

Elysha (right) with her mom Princesse after the awarding ceremony.

By Sunshine Lichauco

PARENTS dream that their children excel because their main role is to open up opportunities for their offspring to develop and reach their full potential and be productive citizens of the country.

Such is the sentiment of two fathers, Manuel Pangan and Leo Cueto, as they both had their children, Zachary and Elysha, respectively, apply to One Meralco Foundation's (MF) Academic Assistance Awards (MVPAAA) program.

The program is a scholastic grant given to employees of Meralco and its subsidiaries who have children excelling academically. Since 2011, the Foundation has recognized 200 dependents in the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

"In Meralco, we want our employees and their children to feel proud and to have a certain sense of fulfillment to see recognize their pursuit for work and academic excellence," said Meralco Chief COO officer and One Meralco Foundation president Jeffrey O. Faeyrac.

"We believe that by doing this, we are encouraging them to reach higher and dream bigger," he added.

Working hard

"I feel very proud to be the father of Zachary. It makes me want to work harder so that I can give everything to my family especially to my children," informed Nicanor Pangan, a field representative from the Meralco Pasig Business Center.

Zachary, currently a sophomore at the Philippine Science High School and awardee of the first MVPAAA, has a strong motivator to study hard. "I never asked him to study. But seeing him study, I sometimes, ask me him to take a rest because he studies a lot," Nicanor continued.

Today, the grant has proven to be an inspiring reward to Zachary and a welcome assistance to Nicanor.

"The grant has been a great help to us. I am not able to give to my brother every time because life is hard and there are other household expenses I am thinking of. But with the financial assistance we received, I bought him a laptop so he can use it for school," he shared.

A legacy of excellence

The story of Elysha, a Grade 4 student at the Holy Trinity Academy, takes a different turn when her father, Leo Cueto, a process analyst from the Meralco Capsite Business Center, passed away at an early age of 36, days before she got notice of her acceptance in the program.

Elysha remembers on her joy on her dad's face when they receive news that she had been chosen for the MVPAAA. Unfortunately, her dad had a fatal heart attack before they even did.

"Days after, during my birthday, mommy brought me to Meralco to receive daddy's and her the gift – a letter of congratulations for qualifying in the MVPAAA grants," she recalled.

Her father always encouraged her to do well in school not just to get selected as one of the program's awardees but to understand the value of pursuing excellence at such a young age.

"He guarded his own performance at work and pursued that he is one of the best Meralco employees. My father's focus and drive at work inspired me to do my best in everything I do," Elysha said.

She vowed to follow her dream of building a hotel empire in memory of her father. "Daddy, no study it! Thank you for believing in me," she exclaimed.

Precious Cueto, Elysha's mother, is very grateful for the grant especially now that she supports the Cueto family by herself, saying it will help her as a single parent to fund her children's education.

"Meralco's dynamic has enabled our team, One Meralco Foundation and the MVPAAA educational grant is one proof of how kindness makes a difference in a person's life," she added.

Meralco and One Meralco Foundation Chairman Manny V. Pangilinan with the 2011 MVPAAA awardees.

Joint pursuit for excellence

Aside from recognizing the dependents' eagerness to gain knowledge, the MVP AAA also acknowledges employees' untiring support for their children as well as their every dedication to perform well at work as they empower their children with the best education.

"The MVPAAA was manufactured has been sustained for two underlying reasons. First, to recognize the academic achievements of the dependents of the Meralco employees and second, to honor the time and wisdom of Meralco for their hard work and commitment to pursue better education opportunities for their children," said Meralco President and CEO and One Meralco Foundation Vice Chairman Oscar S. Reyes.

With Meralco employees' brand of perseverance and hard work, more employees and their children will be recognized under the program.

The MVP AAA program also gives them the impetus and inspiration to help others and to give back to the community wherever they can because social responsibility, like charity, begins at home.

Meralco executives are joined by the 180 awardees of the 2012 MVP AAA.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Rules on disclosures to be discussed

THE CENTER for Global Best Practices is holding a seminar on "SEC Compliance with the Rules on Disclosures" on Aug. 29 at the Peninsula Manila, Makati City.

This will be the first program to discuss both financial and nonfinancial aspects of disclosure reporting requirements in the Philippines.

The seminar is MCLE and CPE-accredited.

Owing to recent failures of many corporations, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is requiring stricter compliance with rules on disclosures. But most corporations are unaware of and unprepared for this wording in early June, even suspension or revocation of licenses to operate.

This seminar will teach how shareholders, the SEC, financial and nonfinancial rules on compliance, their interpretation, updates and best practices. It will guide board directors, corporate secretaries, compliance officers, other management people, lawyers and other stakeholders.

Participants will learn how their disclosures are reported at registration and beyond, how to use SEC forms and templates. They will be taught solutions, remedies and relief in case a corporation is penalized.

Resource persons are Janina Bernardo-Callangan, director for SEC's corporation finance department that directly checks, monitors, and ensures compliance with disclosure regulations; and Ms. Gracia Casilo-Diaz, SEC general accountant who will discuss everything about financial disclosures including "Favorable Financial Disclosures," "Unaudited Interim Financial Statements," "Issues and Executive Findings on Financial Reports," "Materiality Test on Incompleteness or Misstatement in the Financial Statements" and "Recent SEC Memorandum Circulars Relevant to Annual Financial Disclosures."

Visit www.cgbp.org or call 8627146/59 and 5268060/61. E-mail program leader Camille Jessa at camille@cgbp.org.

Preregistration is required as seats are limited.

Contest on football stadium architecture

By Stephen Marvin A. Padilla
Contributor

HOW WOULD you like to have a world-class football stadium here in the Philippines?

With the Filipinos' growing love for the sport, it may not be long before we finally have one in our own backyard.

The United Architects of the Philippines Student Auxiliary - University of the Philippines Diliman (UAPSA-UPD) is already taking steps to make this dream closer to reality.

The organization has launched Abovedatower 2012, its annual architectural design competition "that seeks to revolutionize perspectives on the development of built environment through progressive design and sustainable architectural innovation."

Registration starts in September and the tentative deadline for submission of entries is December.

This year, UAPSA-UPD challenges participants in design to create a football stadium with modern amenities and a minimum seating capacity of 80,000.

The stadium should be a place for athletic excellence, a manifestation of Filipino culture and pride, and an icon for the country.

It should be capable of hosting international events but flexible enough to be used for other purposes in the off-season. The structure should also be sustainable and responsive to the local climate, culture and society.

Winners will receive cash prizes and their designs will be exhibited in various events in different venues.

Abovedatower 2012, which is open to architecture students and fresh graduates, aims to "speculate, break and innovate" by traveling at atypical routes in problem-seeking, giving them free reign "to ultimately and swiftly" on how to adapt building types to the Filipino contemporary way of living and to find innovative solutions to problems they will encounter."

Showcase of skills

It also provides students a chance to showcase their skills in architectural conceptualization, design and presentation, while offering them avenues for immersion, exploration and learning.

"It pushes the architectural profession forward," said Pedie Soriano, UAPSA-UPD chapter president. "It's also a breath of fresh air, especially for new graduates. Unlike in the real world where they are usually constrained by client requirements and budget, here they're designing for themselves. They have more freedom."

The idea to focus on the design of a football stadium was inspired by the sudden rise to fame of the tubalo, the Philippine football team.

UAPSA-UPD members felt that Silmenial fatalism, where most football games and athletic events in the country were held, had become obsolete and inadequate in serving the growing needs of local athletes and sports fans.

This year's competition will also benefit local football players as part of the proceeds from Abovedatower 2012 will be given to Team Philippines that competes in the Homeless World Cup, an annual tournament for teams of homeless and marginalized young adults all over the world.

Those interested to join Abovedatower 2012 may enter as individuals or as a group of no more than three members. Participants may submit multiple entries, but each entry should be original and individually registered.

P500 for every entry

Registration fee is P500 for each entry submitted. Payment should be made through the Philippine National Bank account name – United Architects of the Philippines Student Auxiliary - University of the Philippines Diliman, account number – 4 175052000 17.

The registration form may be filled out online at www.architectsdiliman.org/registration. A registration code will be sent to the participant by e-mail.

Each submission must include a concept statement, not exceeding 500 words, of the design; architectural plans, sections, elevations, exterior and interior perspectives; and other materials needed to communicate effectively the design intent, like diagrams and photos.

Submissions should be printed and mounted on 20000 boards in landscape format. Each should be accompanied by a brown envelope containing the accomplished copy of the entry form and a CD for the soft copy of the boards in .jpeg format and 300 dpi in resolution.

Entries must be submitted to the Competition Secretariat Abovedatower 2012, College of Architecture Complex, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City.

Winner will be judged according to innovation, sustainability, aesthetics and presentation.

For the complete mechanics, entry forms and other inquiries, e-mail abovedatower2012@gmail.com or visit www.abovedatower.com or their Facebook page www.facebook.com/abovedatower2012.

LAST year's first prize winner is this design by architecture students of St. Louis University in Baguio City

SEI celebrates silver anniversary

A MEMBER of agencies attached to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) will celebrate its achievements and future directions in promoting science education in the country.

Theme of the celebration is "Building the New Generation through Innovations in Science Education."

To promote its silver anniversary in social media, SEI will give a cash prize to the 2,500th and 25,000th to "like" its Facebook page at the time of the anniversary.

Director Filma G. Suarez said SEI had been at the forefront of delivering services that directly aided in the improvement of science and technology education and, consequently, the economic development of the country.

During the celebration, the Silver Empleteen award will be given to those who have worked with the institute for 25 years. The Silver Links award will honor HI partners. A coffee table book featuring the institute's outstanding science students for each of its 25 years of existence will also be launched.

The HI will host the DOST Scholars' Day among high school students. A forum and the Kalahi on Scholars 25 will showcase the human resources development program by featuring selected scholars from 1987 to 2012.

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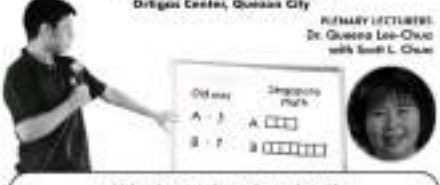

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Bench in education

Viewpage F5

Bench came out with its latest venture (it has years old line of clothing, for their shop windows, they have used the artworks of the students that we have been noticing over the times after every contest. They have put up bulletin boards in their shops and posted the thank you letters/love notes/rants of the schools to the area.

In the Breath has happened one aerial entry for high school students and four aerial entries for the elementary grades.

On Sept. 10, we begin our fifth Bench-supported series for Grades 1 to 6 students. "Earth Matters" is written in six chapters by Palanca award- winner Cyan Abad-Jugo and illustrated by budding artist Steph Ibarra, the same team behind last year's series "Hayo Hilary and the Pillow King."

Jugo uses magic realism to tell the story of a young boy who earns his gold-winning years from a tragic earthquake with the help of a can of characters that includes a white cow and a black cat.

Our partner schools this year are: Ateneo de Manila Integrated, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLS-Cavitehenry), U. Santos Elementary School, Hon. Pio del Pilar Elementary School, Old Balara Elementary School, Cainta Elementary School, Good Shepherd Montessori Academy of Taytay, Ervin Foundation, Highway Hills Integrated School, Tahanan Elementary School, Sta. Elementary School, Tahanan Integrated School, Tahanan Elementary School, Cainta Elementary School, Dr. Isidro Elementary School, Tahanan Elementary School, Tahanan Elementary School, Tahanan